

Disability Now

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'Our jobs are on the line'



Employment Secretary Michael Portillo (left) was handed a petition from Remploy workers last month, asking him to save the Priority Suppliers' Scheme.

YORKSHIRE EVENING POST

Thousands of disabled people's jobs have been put at risk by a row between Employment Secretary Michael Portillo and the European Union (EU).

Mr Portillo has said he is scrapping a scheme that helps 200 sheltered workshops because it flouts an EU directive.

The Priority Suppliers' Scheme gives firms employing disabled workers a competitive edge in bidding for Government contracts. If their first bid is under-cut, they get a second chance.

Mr Portillo claimed the EU directive, effective from June and requiring all public service contracts to be awarded on fair and open tender, had made the scheme illegal. He told the BBC's *Today* programme: "I would like to keep the scheme if I can, but my legal advisers tell me it is just unlawful to do so. That advice is absolutely unambiguous."

EU officials dispute this, saying the directive was never intended to affect disabled people. An EU spokesperson said: "The British Government has never approached us to suggest there was any problem, nor has it

tried to amend the directive. We were aware that there could have been a legal problem, but EU policies are geared to helping rather than hurting disabled people."

Mr Portillo's decision means that sheltered workshops like Remploy, which employs more than 8,700 disabled people in 95 factories and gets most of its textile business from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), will now have to compete on the same terms as its rivals.

Remploy chief executive Tony Withey said: "We want the scheme retained because the MoD is our largest contract and we are facing unprecedented competition from north Africa and eastern Europe."

Peter Bennett, chief executive of the Hampshire-based Enham Trust, a workshop which employs more than 200 disabled people in light assembly work, said: "It will make our life very much more difficult".

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DN09

No cradle to grave NHS?

Hospitals will be able to discharge elderly patients into private nursing homes against their will if draft Government guidelines go through. It would bring to an end the expectation of free care for life under the NHS.

Existing guidance says no NHS patient may be transferred to a private nursing home against their wishes if they or their family cannot pay.

But if a decision is made following consultation, thousands of elderly people who need constant supervision and nursing, but whose condition is stable, will face bills of about £300 a week to cover the cost of nursing homes.

Patients would be assessed and means-tested. The NHS remains responsible "within available resources" for people needing long-term care who cannot pay the fees. If they cannot, but own a house, local authorities will be able to recover the fees when the house is sold.

Health authorities will decide who is entitled to free, long-stay

NHS care. They and the hospitals will take account of other patients' needs when deciding how long the person can continue to occupy an NHS bed.

Launching the guidelines, Junior Health Minister John Bowis said nobody had the right to occupy indefinitely a bed which he or she no longer



Lady Greengross: concerned

clinically required, but patients should expect a clear decision on whether they were eligible for NHS care.

Labour has attacked the guidelines, accusing the Government of trying to shift the cost of care on to families and local authorities.

Health spokesperson David Blunkett said: "The new guide-

lines will severely weaken patients' rights and mean more people will be forced to pick up the tab for their relatives' care."

Lady Greengross, director general of Age Concern, said: "I am concerned that the provision of long-term care will depend on where you live. Does that mean there is no



John Bowis: no right to beds

longer a national health service?"

Lynn Young, community health adviser of the Royal College of Nursing, said the guidelines failed to clarify when long-stay patients are the responsibility of the NHS and when they come under the social services, where they may have to pay.

Continued on page 2

DSS blocks cash for blind people

Blind and visually impaired people who expected to get the care component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) after a House of Lords ruling are having their applications blocked.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) is accusing the Department of Social Security (DSS) of failing to reflect the implications of the ruling in guidance issued to adjudication officers.

The RNIB, which deals with 40 queries a day on the subject, knows of only ten successful claims.

The ruling was given in April when Eric Mallinson, a blind man from Manchester, argued successfully that he should be entitled to an allowance to pay for a guide dog when he visited unfamiliar places.

Three out of five Law Lords backed the appeal, but despite this judgement, Mr Mallinson's

DLA claim was disallowed. Also, guidance issued by the central adjudication office does not fully reflect the ruling. It says people who need a guide dog for "recreational, leisure, cultural or social" purposes are unlikely to qualify. The activities have to be "necessary".

Laura Jacobs, manager of RNIB benefit rights unit, said: "We believe these guidelines are highly restrictive and detract severely from the Law Lords judgement."

"It has never been easy for visually impaired people to get the middle rate of the care component, and the judgement ought to have given people more of a chance."

"We do not understand why the Government cannot give blind and partially sighted people, who need help, more money."

A DSS spokesperson said it could not comment on the adjudication guidance.



DIY enthusiasts from John Grooms Court, Norwich, joined volunteers from the Prince's Trust in redecorating their activities room last month. The centre, run by John Grooms Association for Disabled People, aims to increase the residents' independence.

Better buses scheme

Manchester transport chiefs have come up with a unique approach to improving buses for disabled people.

Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority will use the £140,000 raised from the sale of GM Buses to make more of the county's vehicles accessible.

Commercial operators are being offered grants to improve current vehicles and a top-up grant to buy low-floor buses.

Buses For All - Europe co-ordinator Andy Holt said: "This is the first scheme of its kind and we hope other transport authorities follow suit."

He has either taken the decision on ideological grounds based on his commitment to the free market or has made an error based on his obsession with the EU."

Former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath condemned the minister's decision as "deplorable". He accused Mr Portillo of "playing politics with people's jobs" to enhance his position with voters.

Charity saved

Britain's only information service for disabled musicians has been saved.

The National Music and Disabilities Information Service was due to close on 31 July, but since its financial problems were highlighted here (*DN* July), an offer of help has come from The Arts Council.

It will award the charity a £5,000 grant, which will be used to support a database on music and disability.

Our jobs on the line

Continued from page 1

Andrew Coker, spokesperson for Action for Blind People, which employs 150 people in three workshops, said: "By scrapping the scheme, there are no winners, but disabled workshops will be the losers. Seven out of ten blind people are unemployed, so the chances of them finding another job are diminished."

Jane Campbell, chair of the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, was "amazed at the hypocrisy" of Mr Portillo invoking the law. "How can he say all law has to be enforced when the Government is refusing to enforce the three per cent quota system?"

Rights Now spokesperson Victoria Scott said: "We were hoping for an improvement in the Government's attitude after

the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, but if this is the first indication of a new minister's attitude then it's a great disappointment."

Labour's shadow employment spokesperson Tony Lloyd called on Mr Portillo to resign. "If he is not prepared to protect the rights of disabled people then he has no right to be a minister."

"His judgement is flawed."

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No 'cradle to grave' NHS?

Continued from page 1

"Nurses have first hand experience of the unacceptable care lottery that elderly people are now facing in the NHS," she said. "Damaging uncertainty over funding and the level of care that people can expect is just not dealt with."

"The guidelines also make it too easy for the NHS to pass the buck of continuing care to local authorities, where those in need may face severe means-testing."

Chris Vellenoweth, spokesperson for the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, said: "The concept of the NHS providing from the cradle to the grave no longer applies, and there is no longer necessarily equal access across the country to NHS services. But if the old guidelines had been maintained, over time there would have been bed-blocking, denying beds to those in greater need."

The Government is consulting health authorities, social services departments and voluntary groups. Closing date for comments: 14 October.

NHS Guidelines, Community Care Unit, NHS Executive Headquarters, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE.

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Advice campaign

Help the Aged has launched a campaign to advise pensioners and their carers on their rights when paying for residential care. It is urging people to call its free information line if they are confused about rules on capital savings and benefits when someone goes into care.

SeniorLine, tel: (0800) 289404.

NI care rules change

Draft child-care legislation in Northern Ireland has been brought into line with the rest of the UK.

Baroness Denton, health and social services minister for the Province, announced the changes last month.

Voluntary sector children's homes and carers for children under 12 years will not be required to pay registration and inspection fees. Small, privately run homes, of fewer than four children, will have to register.

Charity hotel merger

The charity London Hotel for Disabled People (LHDP) has merged with the Holiday Care Service.

The charity has provided accessible, low-cost accommodation in London for disabled people since 1981. Charles Moore, OBE and founder, said the development "enables us to feel confident that the spirit of LHDP will live on".

Meanwhile, accommodation at The Spastics Society's Fitzroy Square is to be closed in early December.

The accommodation is used by families visiting the Peto Institute for assessments, staff and others. Arrangements for alternative accommodation are being arranged.

Recognition for DN's Lin

DN telephone counsellor Lin Berwick has been named as one of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation's People of the Year for her services to disabled people. This comes as her telephone helpline remains under threat. Previous sponsorship ran out.

What's in DN next month?

- * Special Motor Show Supplement – six pages of news and info for disabled drivers
- * Edinburgh Festival and Fringe: theatre, dance, comics – including Steady Eddy
- * Lin Berwick, service-user and telephone counsellor, on DN's community care series

... plus complementary therapies (3), news – and jobs!

Rights fight goes to UN

Disabled rights campaigners have gone to the United Nations (UN) in their battle to persuade the Government to implement comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation for disabled people.

Access Denied – Human Rights and Disabled People, a report compiled by human rights group Liberty and the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People (BCODP), has been sent to the UN Human Rights Committee.

It accuses the Government of "abysmal neglect" of rights for disabled people, and, in quashing Dr Roger Berry's civil rights bill, willfully preventing anti-discrimination legislation. Disabled people in Britain, it claims, are forced to live in a system of "social apartheid" in terms of participation in public life, discrimination in employment, freedom of movement and public transport.

Rachel Hurst, of the BCODP, said: "The importance of this report is that we are now unequivocally joined with other human rights organisations in our battle."

The issue was no longer one

of charity and welfare, as the Government had been trying to make out, but denial of civil rights. "The Government is concentrating on legislation which keeps disabled people segregated in special schools and day care centres. We need legislation that allows us to come out into the community."

Dr Berry said campaigners were determined to maintain pressure on the Government during the summer recess, and to keep the issue of civil rights on the agenda. He slammed the Government's consultation document as "piecemeal and inadequate".

The Government will submit its own report to the UN Human Rights Committee in mid-September. A DSS spokesperson said: "Disability is high on the Government's agenda and we are currently consulting widely on different ways to tackle discrimination against disabled people."

Access Denied – Human Rights and Disabled People, £3.80, Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties), tel: 071-403 3888.

Games outrage

The Commonwealth Games has been plunged into controversy over remarks made by a top official about disabled athletes.

Arthur Tunstall, vice-president of the Games Federation, has branded disabled athletes "an embarrassment". He said disabled athletes should not be competing alongside able-bodied people.

The Games, which for the first time have been fully integrated, opened in Victoria,

Canada, at the end of last month.

His comments were quickly condemned by both able-bodied and disabled athletes, and officials at the Games.

Commonwealth Federation vice-president Michael Fennel promised a swift enquiry into the matter.

Mr Tunstall has since made a full apology, but this is unlikely to satisfy campaigners, who, as DN went to press, were calling for his resignation.

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The Reverend Helen Patten, a member of the Royal National Institute for the Blind's cleric group, was ordained by the Bishop of Derby in July. She becomes a team vicar for the Parish of Eckington, north-east Derbyshire. The Reverend Patten is one of 1,200 women ordained into the Church of England, following the General Synod's historic vote last year.

THE ECKINGTON LEADER

Targets for community care

Local authorities are to set targets for the provision of community care.

Local community care charters, to be introduced by all social services departments in 1996, will set speed and quality standards for the for assessing needs and providing services.

They will also spell out what services are charged for and how much the charges are.

Health secretary Virginia Bottomley described the charters as the "yellow pages" of community care and said they would ensure people knew what services they are entitled to.



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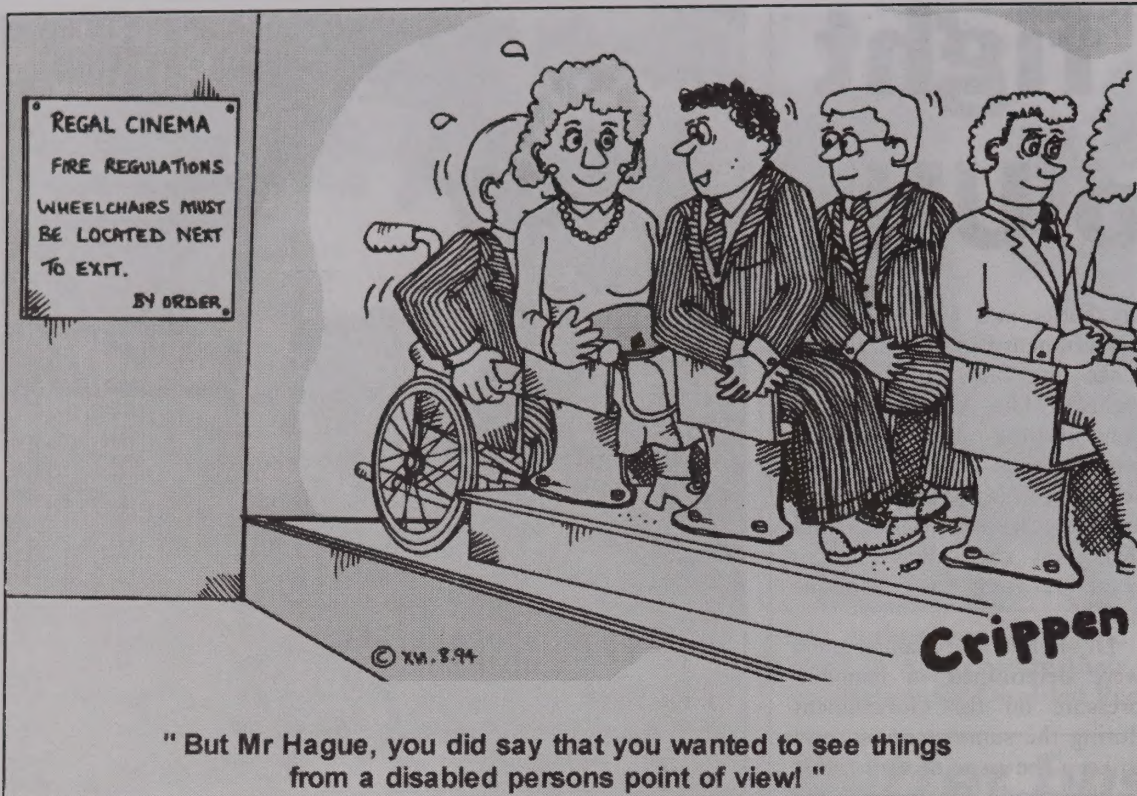


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Hague's northern exposure

New Minister for Disabled People William Hague has made his first official visit since his promotion in July.

Mr Hague has so far kept a low profile, claiming he needs to get his feet properly under the table.

He met disabled people and their carers in County Durham and North Yorkshire last

month. His visit covered Bolton Hall at the Camphill Village Trust near Castleton and Durham Cheshire Home, Crook. He also spoke to carers in Northallerton and people with learning difficulties in the Catterick area.

He struck a note that was positive but short on detail. He said: "As the new Minister for

Disabled People, I am very keen to take every opportunity to get out and about to meet disabled people, their carers and their representatives and to hear their views. I see this as one of the most important aspects of my new role."

He called on disabled people to join the debate on the Government's consultation paper.

BSM wins award for teaching disabled drivers

Learner driver firm BSM has won an award for teaching drivers with disabilities.

The prestigious Prince Michael Road Safety Award was awarded to the company for three categories: road edu-

cation in schools, reducing the risk for newly qualified drivers, and for establishing the first national tuition scheme for drivers with disabilities.

The scheme, called BSM Mobility, gives disabled drivers

instruction tailored specifically to their needs.

Cars are specially adapted for disabled drivers. Learner drivers should approach their local BSM school for details.

Cartoon page 27

Society rebuts factory attack

The Spastics Society was attacked last month for making 28 disabled workers redundant and printing pornography at its Newton Products factory in Birmingham.

It responded by saying the redundancies were planned and had been publicised, but it "deeply regretted" printing pornography.

The society also said the allegations, made in *The Sunday Times*, were misleading, inaccurate and the result of a personal vendetta against the factory.

Fred Duffield, general manager of Newton Products, said: "This is part of a campaign by ex-employees who have publicly expressed an ambition to see the factory closed."

He defended the redundancy policy, pointing out that 25, not 28, disabled people had been made redundant. "The factory has been losing half a million pounds each year for the last three years. We cannot afford to employ people where there are no jobs."

So many disabled people had been laid off now, he explained, because of a policy of trying to protect jobs over several years.

He admitted that pornographic magazines had been published on the premises from 1993 until May this year. "We have to compete for every penny in a depressed market. We were approached, they were legal UK magazines and the print manager saw nothing

wrong. I have since discovered that he did not consult with the general manager at the time.

"The society and management knew nothing about it. When I discovered the contract it was cancelled immediately."

There will be an investigation into how the decision was taken and how the printing went unnoticed.

Another allegation was that the assistant manager had made racist remarks to black, disabled workers. His remarks were not made in front of anyone from an ethnic minority, Mr Duffield said, and he had been reprimanded.

Newton's disabled workers are upset at the furore. Tony Stratford said: "Most of us are devastated about it. We are sending a letter to *The Sunday Times* to set the record straight."

Martine Brent, spokesperson for The Spastics Society, said the society had faced a "hard, stark choice": close the plant or lay people off. "We still have a workforce of 70 people, of which half are disabled."

She conceded printing the pornography was "a major error of judgement" that could affect the way the society is seen in its run-up to the relaunch in November and, in the short term, damage donations.

"It is something that we very much regret, but we have new management and systems in place that mean it will not happen again."

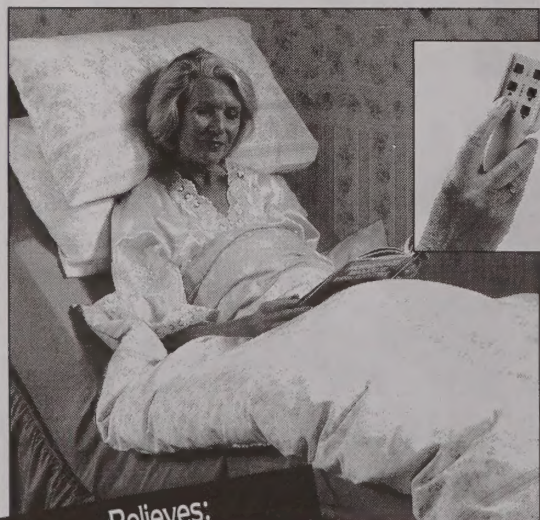
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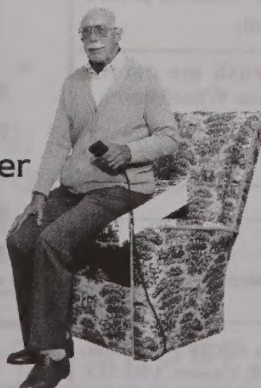
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Easy going in Wakefield

A nature trail has been made more accessible by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council in an effort to encourage disabled people to visit the countryside.

The one-and-a-half mile trail, around the lakeside at Millerdam, has been resurfaced using a fine red shale surface that is easier for wheelchairs and walkers to use.

The two-year scheme has been part funded by the Countryside Commission. More rest and seating points are planned by the council, to be completed this month.

Access to arts

The Arts Council has awarded £25,000 worth of grants to feasibility studies designed to improve access for disabled people in arts buildings.

Winners include £2,000 for the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton and £1,000 each for Bristol Craft & Design Centre and The Citadel, St Helens.

Dream cruise was access nightmare

One of Britain's top ferry companies has been slammed for its lack of facilities for disabled people after a "pleasure" cruise turned into a nightmare last month.

Members of the Wheeled Society for the Disabled took a "mini Caribbean" pleasure trip with Sally Line ferries from Ramsgate to Ostend at the beginning of August.

But when they arrived at Ramsgate harbour, they discovered there were no special parking bays for them, nor facilities, such as properly designed shuttle buses, to transport them from their coach to the ferries.

Geoff Ward of the group told DN: "Sally Line ferries were totally useless for people with disabilities. There were no parking facilities for disabled people, and no vehicles avail-

able with ramp access.

"People were being manhandled aboard by staff. One passenger was almost tipped out of his wheelchair."

In Ostend, the group was told that, because of duty free regulations, they would have to disembark before the turnaround trip.

On returning to England, the group complained. They were offered their money back, or another trip with the ferry company.

Mr Ward said: "We felt very upset. We were handled more like baggage than customers. I don't think I'll be travelling with them again until they have improved their access facilities."

Linda McLeod, director of sales and marketing for Sally Line ferries, was at a loss to explain how the situation.

"We transport four million people a year. The chances are that occasionally our service lets people down.

"But obviously this should not happen to anybody and we let ourselves down badly with Mr Ward."

She argued it was possible that temporary repainting work could have obscured the lines marking out the parking bays for disabled people.

Carol Tomlinson, manager of the Holiday Care Service, said it was up to ferry companies to make sure staff were fully briefed on what services for disabled people were available at particular ports.

"Most of the operators are supportive, which is very encouraging. But if you ask all the right questions and still do not get right answers, it is difficult."

No end to water bill misery

Water bills will continue to rise by an average of £2 per year over the next ten years – despite privatised water companies being capped last month by the water regulator Ofwat.

The prediction, by the Consumer's Association, could have a profound effect on people who use more water than average, such as the elderly and some disabled people.

Philip Cullum, policy research manager at the association, said the situation will get worse if companies extend water metering.

Bills would then be governed more closely by the amount of water used.

"The Government should be looking at the benefits system to accommodate these changes. If not, some people will be in

big difficulties," he said.

Rosemary Hargreaves, spokesperson for Help the Aged, said rising bills were just one more concern facing elderly people.

"Elderly people will be more careful about how much water they use. Some will even cut back on water use. Those who need lots of water may be penalised."



No harm in asking ... Two years ago Julia Outing was on her own living in a hostel. She was trying to pay off a £30,000 debt from the Peto Institute in Hungary for treatment for her 13-year-old daughter Rebecca, who has cerebral palsy. Determined to buy a £38,000 plot of land at Fareham, Hampshire, she wrote 250 letters to firms asking for their help to build a dream home. Thanks to their generosity, she and Rebecca (above) now live in this £120,000 property.

INS/DAILY MAIL

Bus shelter competition

A competition to design a bus shelter that is both environmentally friendly and easily accessible for disabled people has been launched by Birmingham's Angle Gallery.

Entries must show front, side and plan views. The best 100

will go on display, with the winner commissioned to produce working drawings and a scale model.

The Angle Gallery, 3/4 Dakota Buildings, James Street, tel: 021-233 9260. Deadline: 2 November.

DoH measles campaign

The Department of Health plans to head off a measles epidemic that is due to hit Britain early next year, with a £20 million vaccination programme.

If not prevented, the epidemic could cause dozens of cases of blindness, brain damage and deafness among children.

Seven million children aged between five and 16 will be offered immunisation in November.

Those who have already had measles or been immunised will receive a resistance booster.

Death of blind campaigner

Albert Weedall OBE, chairman of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind (BRIB), died last month, aged 76.

Mr Weedall had been chairman since 1988. He was previously chairman of the board of governors at the BRIB's Queen Alexandra College.

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Experts call for tax on pollution

The Government must do more to protect people with asthma from harmful exhaust fumes, a report by health and transport experts warned last month.

How Vehicle Pollution Affects Our Health calls on the Government to get tough on pollution by:

- * Levying a pollution tax on cars which would be used to fund public transport, cycle routes and car-free city centres
- * Moving the position of car exhausts so that fumes are directed away from children on the roadside
- * Imposing speed restrictions on motorways where pollution levels are high
- * Restricting the access of heavy goods vehicles, which cause a lot of the pollution, to towns and cities
- * Introducing random roadside tests to catch offending cars.
- * Improving the scale and quality of public transport so that more people take buses.

The report was written by leading health and transport experts, including Dr Malcom Green, chairman of the British Lung Foundation, and Dr Phil Goodwin of Oxford University's transport studies unit, for the Ashden Trust, a charitable trust that promotes environmental issues.

Dr Green said: "Our research shows clearly the link between vehicle pollution and ill health. Planners and policy makers must take notice and take action to ensure the quality of our air improves."

A spokesperson for the Department of the Environment said: "We will consider the report and consult with experts on how the quality of Britain's air can be improved."

£2, Ashden Trust, 9 Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EB.

Scottish hospital study

The Scottish Affairs select committee is to hold an inquiry into the effect of psychiatric hospital closures in Scotland.

The move follows an announcement by the Scottish Office that six psychiatric hospitals will shut down in 1994/5. As a result, 600 people with mental health problems will be moved into the community.

The Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), the Association of Directors of Social Work and the Scottish Office will give evidence to the committee in October.

SAMH director Robin Laing said: "The inquiry is good news because it is vital that the closures are carefully monitored and sensitively managed."



Young inventor Catherine Golding, 17, from Harrogate, (above) shows off a trophy she won for designing a device that enables disabled people to operate electrical appliances, such as the TV and radio, by pressing buttons on a computer control pad. The competition was run by YORTEK - the Association of High Technology in North Yorkshire.

Dolphin helps boy to speak

A boy of five with a rare genetic disorder has started to speak for the first time after therapy with a group of dolphins.

James Woods, from Cleveland, attended the Dolphin Research Centre in Florida where a clinical psychologist worked with him. The treatment involved James looking at picture cards and being rewarded with a swim with dolphins Tina, Aleta and Tursa.

His parents hope to take him back next year. Mrs Anna Woods said: "It was fantastic to hear him speak, even if it was only a few words."

Director Dr David Nathanson said the dolphins acted as a spur to learning by increasing the attention span of children. "Disabled children often withdraw, but here they try harder because they want to be in the water with the dolphins," he said.

Billions in benefit wasted

The unemployment rate for disabled people is "persistently and disproportionately high" and is costing the country billions of pounds in benefits, according to a consultation paper by the Institute of Manpower Studies.

The paper argues that it is unrealistic to aim for equal levels of employment between disabled and non-disabled people.

Instead, it suggests reducing the percentage of unemployed disabled people by ten per cent over a period of five years. This drop would mean another 470,000 jobs for disabled people, saving the Government £1,930 million a year, argue the authors of the paper.

To achieve these aims employers with more than 20 employees must fill their statutory three per cent quota while training providers need to ensure that disabled trainees achieve the same standard of qualifications and job opportunities as able-bodied people.

The paper, which also looks at discrimination against ethnic groups and women, said: "The experience of disabled people is even more disadvantaged than that of ethnic minorities, with greater evidence of permanent exclusion from unemployment."

The Case for National Equality in Employment Targets, free, Institute of Manpower Studies, tel (0273) 686751.

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The Invisible Wall is a series of three half hour programmes for BBC1 that highlight the invisible barriers faced by disabled people.

The documentaries will use secret filming to highlight the many problems faced by a variety of people on a daily basis, whether they are access related or more a question of attitude.

The production team are currently looking for examples of prejudice to record and a number of disabled contributors who could investigate claims of discrimination.

We are looking for experiences from all aspects of life; if you've had a problem with banks, colleges, in the work place, on public transport, in cinemas, health clubs, or any others, please contact Rachel Wexler on the above address or fax her on the above number.

The deadline for replies is 14 September 1994.



Messing about on the river: Twenty visually impaired young people (above) enjoyed a holiday with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) in the Lake District last month. RNIB's annual vacation scheme offers 120 visually impaired youngsters the chance to enjoy a wide range of activities in Scotland, Yorkshire and Hampshire. Tel: 071-388 1266. RNIB

Health care forum launched

An independent forum of leading health care experts was formed last month to inquire into the Government's health reforms.

Healthcare 2000, led by Duncan Nichol, the former NHS chief executive, will consider how services should respond to rising demands and limited resources.

Members include representatives of the Institute of Public Policy Research, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and the Institute of Economic Affairs.

It is calling for an "open debate about health issues such as the quality and method of delivering services, rationing, consumer choice and funding".

The group will hold a series of meetings in the autumn to discuss these issues with interested parties, such as disabled people, professionals, managers, staff, economists and politicians. A report will be published next year.

Mr Nichol, who is Professor of Health Services Management at the University of Manchester, said: "We need to listen to as many views as possible and will invite all interested parties to participate in the meetings."

Mary Holland, assistant director of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, said: "It appears that Healthcare 2000 will be looking into important issues, but I feel it is a shame that the forum does not include some representatives of either disability groups or organisations for elderly people."

Judges go to charm school

Judges are to undergo "special training" to try to prevent them making off-the-cuff remarks that insult "disadvantaged groups", including disabled people, racial minorities and women.

The Judicial Studies Board, which oversees the training of judges, is to examine how to teach the judiciary not to offend people and to be more sensitive of people's feelings.

The board has set up a working party under Mr Justice Potter, a High Court judge, to decide how training could be organised. The group is expected to make recommendations in nine months time.

A Judicial Studies Board spokesperson said: "Our aim at first was to make judges more aware of being offensive to women. But we decided that training should be extended to all groups who are disadvantaged."

Yorkshire carer fights test case

A North Yorkshire carer is fighting a legal battle to get his sister into the respite care home of her choice.

Bill Hargreaves, 62, from Cawood, near Selby, has been given the go-ahead to launch a judicial review of North Yorkshire social services' community care policy. It will be held on 28 September.

Mr Hargreaves has cared for his severely disabled sister, Beryl, since 1986. For six weeks every year she goes into a respite care home, but Mr Hargreaves claimed the council's social services department will not let her stay at the home she wants to go to.

He said the department, which funds respite care, insisted she attend Selby Carers' Forum Hostel or be placed with a family.

"We didn't feel either were appropriate for her needs, but the council ignored our wishes," said Mr Hargreaves.

"The hostel was inadequate. It did not have a stairlift or a low-base shower. The places where she wants to stay are purpose-built and provide all the facilities that disabled people need, and cost no more than the council-run homes."

He claimed the council is ignoring the principle of freedom of choice, central to the Government's community care plans.

"They have never acknowledged that she has any right to express her own opinion. They are saying disabled people have no rights to their own opinions," he said.

North Yorkshire council would not comment.

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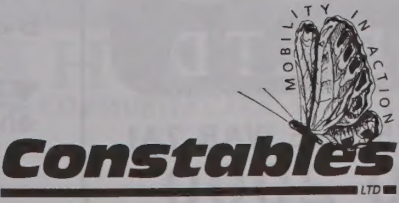
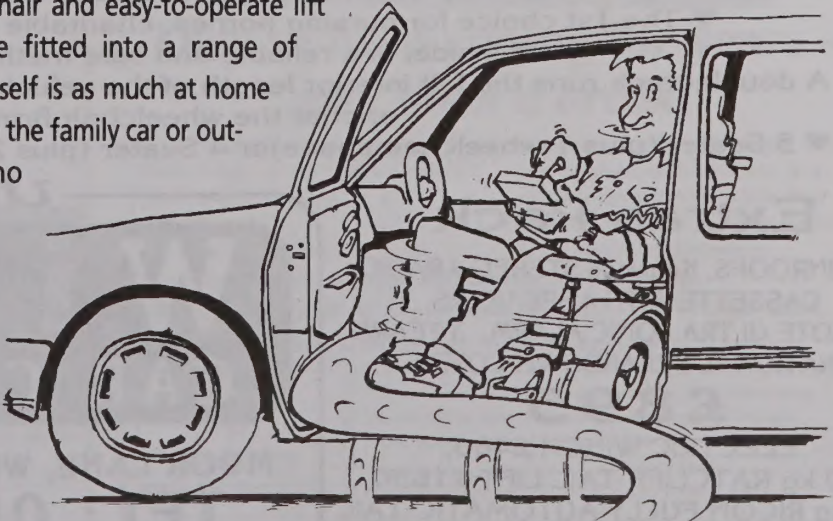
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Pioneering op saves five lives

The lives of five young children have been saved by a pioneering liver transplant operation at King's College Hospital, south London.

The children's parents - three mothers and two fathers - each had a slice of their own livers removed and transplanted into their children.

It was the first time the operation had been carried out in Britain and all the children and parents have made a good recovery.

Professor Roger Williams, director of the Institute of Liver Studies at King's College, said the operation was possible because the liver, unlike kidneys or other vital organs, can regenerate. This means that the parent's cut down liver will re-grow to its original size and function normally.

The slice of liver transplanted into the child will grow with the child and start working as a separate, independent organ.

One of the parents who volunteered for the operation was David Ward, whose daughter Lani has biliary atresia, a condition in which the bile ducts become blocked.

Mr Ward said: "The operation has been a real success. Lani improved quickly. Her skin soon became pink again and she can move more easily."

Professor Williams said: "This technique is important because of the shortage of donor livers and the increase in people needing them. There are 130 patients on the waiting list at King's College Hospital, but the number of donor livers is dropping, partly because of success in reducing the number of road deaths."

Molecule blocks arthritis

American scientists are developing a new method of treating rheumatoid arthritis and septic shock.

The conditions, which affect more than a million people in Britain, occur when the immune system goes wrong and starts attacking the body.

Dr Roy Black and colleagues at the Immunex Hospital in Washington have found a molecule can be used to tackle both conditions. The molecule, called a hydroxamate, blocks the action of tumour necrosis factor (TNF), a chemical which helps trigger off the symptoms of the two conditions.

Dr Black said: "TNF plays



A unique computer system (above), the first of its kind in the country, has been installed at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead. It uses music, graphics, and a video of someone using British Sign Language to provide disabled patients with information about hospital services.

an important role in the immune system, but when the body makes too much of it, it over stimulates the immune system, and needs to be blocked. The molecule can do this by stopping cells from releasing TNF into the bloodstream."

The researchers have successfully treated mice and now plan to test it on people.

An Arthritis and Rheuma-

tism Council spokesperson said: "This work is very interesting, but trials are needed to ensure it is effective."

Cancer find

British scientists at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) have announced important new discoveries about the develop-

ment of Sarcoma - a group of tumours that mostly affect children and young adults.

An ICR research team, led by Dr Colin Cooper, is now able to identify two new genes which are responsible for the development of Sarcoma.

The discovery is vital because, up until now, the cancers have been very difficult to diagnose accurately.

Dr Cooper said: "Our discovery in identifying the new genes should represent a big improvement in the diagnosis of this type of tumour, which affects about 3,000 people in the UK each year."

Asthma storm alert

Thunderstorms rather than air pollution were mainly responsible for the rise in asthma cases during this summer's heatwave, according to the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards, an independent advisory body.

The panel's chairperson Professor Anthony Seaton said: "The link between asthma attacks and air pollution has been over emphasised. This summer's surge in asthma attacks was more likely down to thunderstorms, which are known to bring on the condition, probably because they release pollen and fungal spores into the atmosphere."

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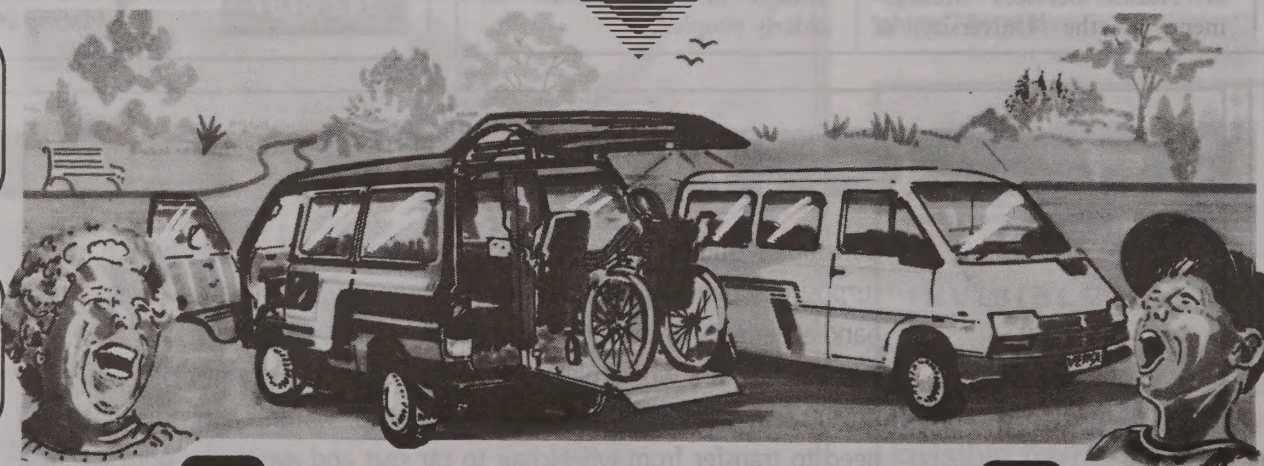


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IN BRIEF

Rural transport scheme

Chester city council has launched a transport scheme for disabled people living in rural areas.

A free taxi service has been introduced as Dial-a-Ride buses do not serve many rural communities.

Each person who qualifies for the scheme will be given taxi vouchers which they can use when and where they want.

A Chester city council spokesperson said: "There are an awful lot of wheelchair users living in rural areas who are more or less stranded. The taxi voucher scheme means they no longer have to rely on lifts from others to go out."

Chester city council, tel: (0244) 324324.

ME advice line

A telephone information line for people with ME will be launched on 24 October.

The service is being provided by Action for ME, a national group who provide information and support services for some 150,000 people with the condition in the UK and their carers.

Callers will be able to listen to the latest information about the disability, including its symptoms and causes.

There will also be advice on coping with ME and the latest information about treatment and therapy. Thirty per cent of the revenue from the calls will go to Action for ME to fund medical research and support services.

ME information line, tel: (0891) 122976.

Conductors qualify

Twelve people have qualified as trainee conductors after taking courses in conductive education at Hungary's world famous Peto Institute.

The trainees, who completed their training at Keele University this summer, will start work at The Spastic Society's schools in September.

Garden of the senses

A group of students from South Fields College in Leicester have designed a garden of the senses for disabled people, especially those who are visually impaired.

It will contain trees, shrubs and flowers with bright colours and strong fragrances. It will also have tapping trials to enable visually impaired people to find the way.

Leicester city council are looking for support from local companies to donate materials, help with the construction of the garden and sponsorship.

Leicester city council, tel: (0533) 542300.



A team of disabled cyclists (above) will ride 250 miles across Israel next month to raise money for the Ravenswood Foundation, a charity which provides training opportunities for people with learning difficulties. The riders all live at the Ravenswood Village in Berkshire, a community of 88 people.

Hitting the wrong note

Visually impaired passengers who use London Underground's Central Line will have to wait until August 1995 before taped announcements work properly.

The Banking Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) has protested to London Underground because some messages announcing the stations are not played, and when the message is played it is usually too late to get out of the doors.

Mike Insole, a visually impaired telephonist working for Nat West bank and a BIFU member, said: "The message

announcing the stations is not played as the train pulls into the station, but only after the train stops and the doors begin to open. It does not give you much time to react."

BIFU spokesperson Richard Lynch said: "It's a shame that a useful development is being rendered next to useless in this way and we hope the Central Line will do something about it."

Central Line general manager Geoff Thackeray said the announcements could not be synchronised with train arrivals until a new signalling system is completed next August.

Epilepsy lobby

An All Party Parliamentary Group on Epilepsy was launched in July.

Leeds MP John Battle formed the group to give people with epilepsy a parliamentary voice and raise public and political awareness about the condition.

Reading West MP Sir Anthony Durrant has already joined and other MPs are being invited.

"One of the first problems we will tackle is to ensure that people with epilepsy get a minimum standard of care," said Mr Battle.

"We also need to increase the public's understanding of epilepsy and correct many outdated and prejudiced ideas about it."

The group wants epilepsy recognised as a condition in its own right with benefits based on an individual's degree of impairment.

It also hopes to improve teachers' and doctors' understanding of epilepsy through training, to establish epilepsy clinics in every district health authority and reduce discrimination among employers.

Terry O'Leary, chief executive of the British Epilepsy Association, has welcomed the launch of the new group.

He said: "We are working to change the way people view epilepsy and I believe the All Party Group will help by giving us more ammunition and improve our own campaigning activities."

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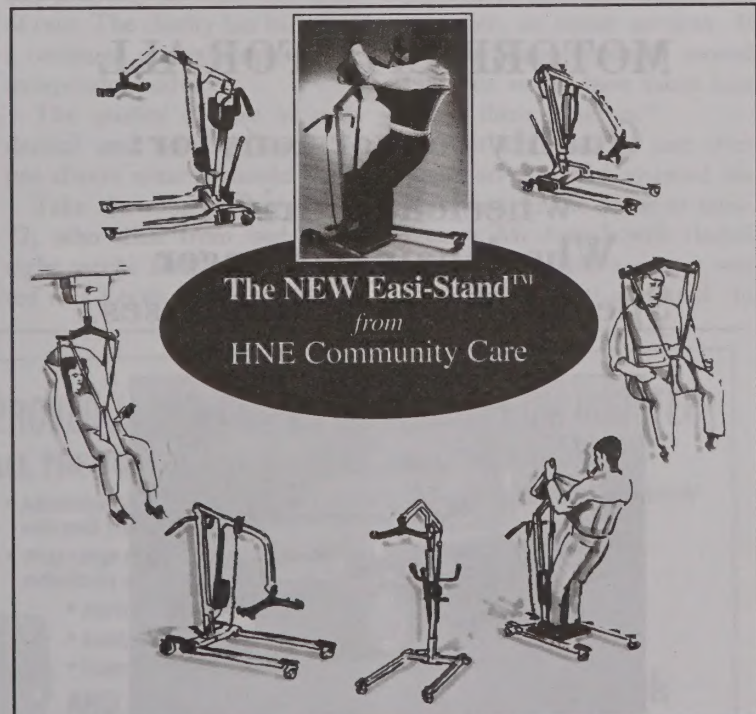
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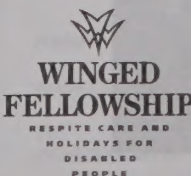
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Helping Albania's forgotten children

Albert Baja will never forget his first visit to Berat, a home for disabled children in Albania.

"There were nearly 55 children in desperate condition," said Baja, Albanian co-ordinator of the charity Feed the Children. "The children were filthy, covered in sores and flies. Some lay on urine soaked mattresses. Albania is the poorest country in Europe and disabled people come last in the pecking order."

Feed the Children has been sending aid to this Eastern European country. Last month it launched an appeal for basic physiotherapy equipment such as mats, wobble boards, parallel bars, supportive boots and gaiter splints. These will be given to hospitals and homes for disabled children in four Albanian cities.

Some of the equipment will be taken out by Kit Evered, from west London, who has been vis-

iting Albania for three years.

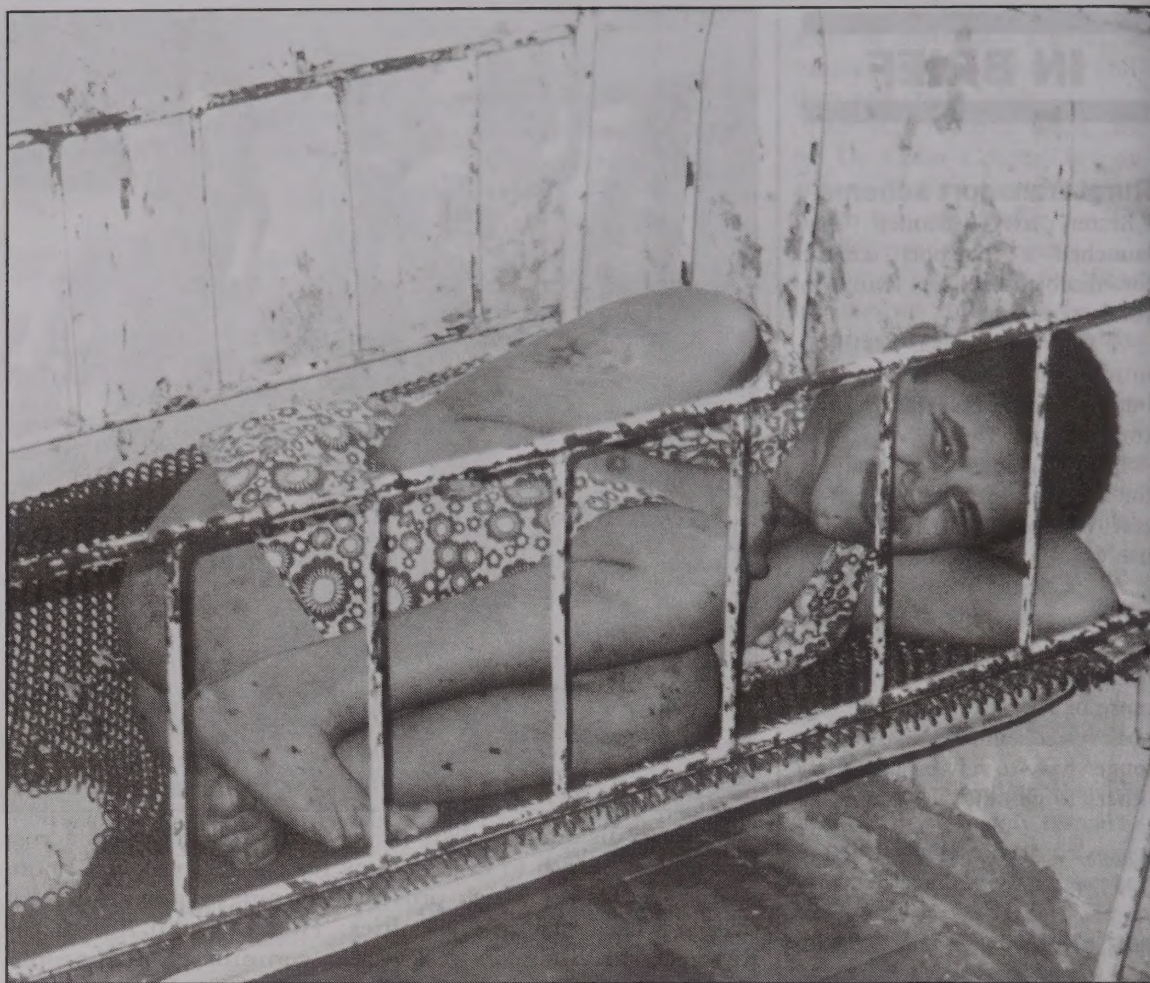
"There is an alarming lack of facilities, which means some children get no treatment at all. Berat is being rebuilt, but it still lacks basic equipment.

"People moan about the state of physiotherapy in this country, but if they saw some of the things that go on in Albania, they would not complain so much."

Mrs Evered is working for a project run by the Eastern European Partnership, a section of the Voluntary Services Overseas organisation, and spends five months of each year helping in hospitals and homes. She also teaches students and carers how to provide better healthcare.

"What we are doing is just a drop in the ocean as there is a huge amount still to do, but the Albanians are very keen to improve their facilities."

Feed the Children, 82 Caversham Road, Reading, TG1 8AE.



A disabled boy is confined to a rusty bed in a freezing, bare room at the Berat home for disabled children in Albania. The dilapidated building is now being renovated, but staff lack even the most basic of physiotherapy equipment.

FEED THE CHILDREN/ JEFF ALDERSON

European day promotes human rights

The second European Day of Disabled People will be held on 3 December.

Disability groups from all 12 European Union (EU) countries will organise a wide range of events, including conferences, demonstrations, exhibitions and concerts.

They will also distribute posters, stickers and information packs to increase awareness of disability issues, including

the need for anti-discrimination legislation.

The day is being organised to promote human rights for disabled people throughout the EU at local, regional and national level.

To achieve this, Disabled People's International (DPI) will be holding a meeting on human rights at the European Parliament building in Brussels next month.

European disability groups and three disabled representative from each member state will attend the one-and-a-half day meeting, the date of which has yet to be decided, and discuss eugenics, the European definition of a disabled person, independent living, euthanasia and sexuality.

A full report on the session will be presented to European commissioners at a ceremony in

Brussels on 3 December.

A spokesperson for the DPI said: "The first European Day of Disabled People in 1993 went very well with some great speeches and a real feeling of solidarity. We are hoping the second one will prove just as successful.

"We want disability groups to organise as many national, regional and local European Day events as possible."

Health plans under threat

The American President is making one last, all-out effort to persuade Congress to support his healthcare reforms.

At present, 37 million Americans have no insurance and 22 million lack adequate cover. Bill Clinton wants to introduce universal coverage.

If enacted, the reforms would provide insurance cover for all, including a basic, standardised benefit package. Clinton's plans include the "employer mandate", under which business would be required to pay 80 per cent of workers' insurance premiums.

As the President is unlikely to receive any support from the Republicans, the outcome is likely to hinge on about 50 conservative Democrats who are under pressure from business to vote against their President.

Prag bows out

The European All Party Disablement Group (EAPDG) has lost three of its members since June, but looks likely to gain two more.

Derek Prag, who founded the EAPDG in 1980 and has been chairman for 14 years, retired as MEP for Hertfordshire last month.

London South East and Surrey MEP James Moorhouse also resigned from the group and Lancashire MEP Michael Welsh lost his seat in the June elections. But Worcestershire MEP John Corrie and Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes MEP Eyol McNally have both said they are interested in joining.



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

At home in 'Colditz cottage'

In the last of the *DN* series, Michael Turner finds many elderly people are let down by services ity, and *vice versa*.

Another problem is the role of home help services, now generally called "home care services". With an increasing emphasis on personal care, it is becoming difficult to get help with tasks like cleaning.

Joy Longhurst from Canterbury is 84 and has MS. She is scathing of the services available to older disabled people at home. "You might have thought that now we have to pay for home helps the service would have improved, but exactly the opposite has happened."

She says that introducing payment for services has not increased the user's control of them. "They are so strict about what they can and cannot do that I probably would not ask for more time from them, even if I could afford it."

Age Concern's monitoring has shown other problems too, such as getting equipment, lack of community health services like chiropody, and inappropriate housing.

Residential care problems

As well as changing arrangements for care at home, community care brought in major changes to the way residential care is funded. Local authorities are now responsible for paying the fees for residential care and are allowed to assess whether a person should be contributing towards the cost.

Help the Aged says there has been fear and distress, particularly among relatives, that they may have to use savings and sell property to meet the costs of care. The charity has launched a campaign urging people to get independent advice.

The quality of care in residential and nursing homes is not always what it should be.

Take the case of Reg Airey, 77, who died from bed sores eight weeks after being admitted to a Leeds nursing home.



Is a cup of tea enough to allay the fears?

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

His daughter, Glenys Riddell, explains what happened. "My father was discharged from hospital a few weeks after having a severe stroke. We were not convinced he was ready to leave hospital, but we had no choice.

"Social services assessed him as needing 24-hour care and gave me a list of nursing homes to choose from. There was no help or advice beyond this.

"Once in the home, he deteriorated rapidly. We complained to nursing staff, to the manager, to social services. If we could have physically moved him, we would have taken him out of there ourselves."

After eight weeks, just after social services had assessed his placement at the home as satisfactory, Mr Airey's wife visited him. She insisted a doctor was called. He was admitted to

hospital, where he later died.

While this may be an extreme failing of the system, an Age Concern spokesperson says: "It shows the importance of full co-operation and co-ordination between all services and that this is not always happening at present."

Last month, the Government responded to many of the criticisms of community care with an announcement that, from

1996, local authorities will have to publish care charters. Each charter will detail the services available and set standards for their speed and quality.

A spokesperson for Help the Aged commented: "We called for the introduction of such protection before the reforms were brought in, and the delay has clearly caused distress and suffering for many elderly people."

National standards needed

Age Concern still wants to see national standards and has called for the creation of an inter-departmental Government committee to co-ordinate policy on community care and ensure there is enough money for it.

On the evidence so far, there is a long way to go before true care in the community is a reality. Even where services are meeting people's needs, there is little evidence of people enjoying a reasonable quality of life.

An example of a "good" residential home in Age Concern's report was one where people are being well looked-after, but have nothing to do all day.

Joy Longhurst could not attend a friend's funeral recently. "I call my little house Colditz Cottage because I manage so few escapes".

The Next Steps, £6 from Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER, tel: 081-679 8000.

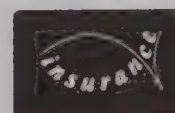
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Learning together works both ways

Disabled and non-disabled pupils in inclusive schools have definite views about education standards, bullying, friendship and what makes a good school. Linda Shaw reports

Pupils from inclusive schools have spoken warmly of the increased opportunities for learning when disabled and able-bodied children are educated together.

Their views, on a new audio tape produced by the Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education (CSIE), challenge the widespread belief that standards will fall if disabled children are included.

Both children with and without disabilities referred to getting "more education" when they learn together and appreciated that they could learn from each other. As one London schoolgirl said: "They can learn from us and we can learn from them."

Special needs teachers and helpers who joined mainstream staff were seen as welcome additional resources for any child who "gets stuck" or "can't spell".

More than 50 children from a total of five primary and secondary schools in London, Leeds and Sheffield took part.

The aim was to provide a platform for young people's views on inclusive education, in line with the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of

the Child (Article 12), and the 1993 Education Act code of practice on identification and assessment of special educational needs, which comes into force in September.

Support is A-Okay

Disabled pupils, supported by non-disabled friends, talked in an unembarrassed and matter-of-fact way about how they use and maintain equipment such as braille machines, hearing aids and radio links.

A teenage pupil who became a wheelchair user said that, even though her school had many steps, staff found ways round the access problem so she did not have to change schools. "They had a lift-type thing that they put my wheelchair on and it took it up and down the stairs. They borrowed it."

A boy who needs assistance going to the loo said he was happy with the arrangement he had worked out with the "social welfare lady".

And a girl with emotional difficulties, who worried about bullying, spoke of the welfare assistant who became a friend and helped her not to get in "a huff and a puff" and run out of the classroom to hide.

Bullying happens everywhere

Bullying was an important concern for many children. They pointed out that disability is only one focus for bullying. Children may also get bullied because of skin colour, background or personality, and bullying happens in special schools as well as in mainstream.

The presence of children with physical disabilities or learning difficulties was regarded by non-disabled children as preventing bullying, because people got used to "having them around the school".

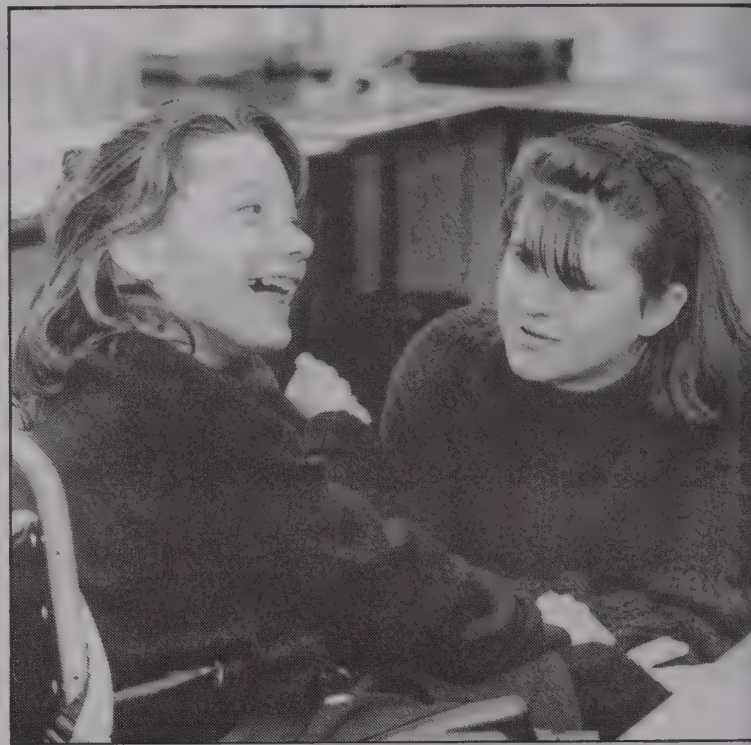
Children who have moved into mainstream from special school said they got upset when they were "called names", but that did not make them want to go back. They coped by "walking away or telling the teacher".

Friends are friends

Pupils spoke of how they think differently now about getting to know someone with learning difficulties. They described how at first they felt silly talking to disabled classmates, were frightened to touch them, or they felt sorry for them.

Later they realised what they had in common. "He hangs around with us and messes about like all the others. He's just like all the others, he's just got learning difficulties."

At the thought that someone might return to special school: "If they're going, we're going, because without them it



What pupils say about inclusive education should be listened to
SALLY & RICHARD GREENHILL

wouldn't be right ... Everybody is friends with them."

Inclusive v special schools

The children could not see any good reason for special schools and thought sending pupils to them was "unfair" and "cruel", "like separating you from your best friend".

They did not speak so strongly about being separated when the move was from special school to mainstream, although many had moved in that direction. Those educated in special schools were adamant they did not want to return.

Disabled children who had never been out of mainstream did not find it easy to say which they preferred, but made clear it was important to be with friends and people who understood disability.

One wheelchair user did mention feelings of isolation because of her disability, which surfaced on a visit to a special school.

She found: "It wasn't just me who was in the wheelchair. It was other children as well who had different handicaps ... it wasn't just me that was like that ... there were some other people in the world as well."

What makes a good school?

Common themes emerged about what makes a good school.

The children liked schools

- * which are relaxed and give children time to keep up
- * which offer different activities
- * where they can have a laugh with the teacher "but do not get away with everything"
- * where teachers are strict on bullying.

They did not like schools which

- * prefer "the kids that can do well, and just keep them going"
- * take pupils out of favourite lessons for separate teaching
- * keep repeating what children have already learned until they get bored
- * keep children out of the "real world".

CSIE hopes that the tape, part of a training pack, will encourage schools to listen to children when it comes to making individual education plans and drafting the special needs policies required by the new legislation.

Talking Inclusion, with accompanying worksheet, is £5, from CSIE, 1 Redland Close, Elm Lane, Redland, Bristol BS6 6UE, tel: (0479) 288450.

Linda Shaw is CSIE's co-director.

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Hitting prejudice for six

Jonty Rhodes is committed to raising awareness about epilepsy. Tim Russell talks to the South African cricketer

Jonty Rhodes will go down in history as one of the greatest fielders of all time.

His sliding stops, athletic throws and spectacular catches have thrilled millions of cricket lovers around the world.

An irrepressible character, he is revelling in South Africa's first tour to this country for 18 years. Always bright and chirpy, he has become an instant success with British crowds. Armies of schoolboys follow him, clamouring for his autograph.

He gets hundreds of letters a week from people all over the world and they are not all cricket fans. He is equally admired for his work in extending public awareness about epilepsy.

Rhodes, 24, from Natal, recently launched a campaign for the South African National Epilepsy League and took time out from the Test matches to speak at a National Society for Epilepsy event in London.

"I was born with reflexive epilepsy, a mild form of the condition, which means I fall unconscious if I am struck on the skull."

He first got involved with the National Epilepsy League after

the 1992 World Cup. "They were looking for a sports person to front their campaign and I was happy to oblige.

"There is a stigma attached to epilepsy caused by ignorance and fear which must be tackled. It is a fear of the unknown. Because it affects the brain, people are scared of it. I try to increase awareness because the more people know about epilepsy, the less prejudice there will be."

Although Rhodes does not take medication, he is not allowed to play any contact sports.

"My father and brother used to play rugby, but I'm not allowed to. It's too risky. I've always been sports mad. Soccer was my real love and I wanted to play for Manchester United.

"There is a stigma attached to epilepsy caused by ignorance and fear which must be tackled"

"I was a centre forward and played until the age of 14. But my condition affected my game. I couldn't head the ball, so I had to take crosses on my chest which was very difficult."

Rhodes decided to concentrate on cricket and discovered a talent for fielding.

"I'm a natural athlete and, being small, have a low centre of gravity. This means I can get

down to the ball quickly. But I don't work hard enough at hitting the stumps. I'd like to get a few more run outs."

Rhodes is also a fine batsman, whose gritty batting has saved South Africa in many crisis situations. He enjoys playing fast bowling, but his epilepsy makes him vulnerable to bouncers.

"Allan Donald hit me with a bouncer in 1992 and I blacked out. I was taken to hospital but was okay."

A spastic colon causes him a lot of pain when he is nervous.

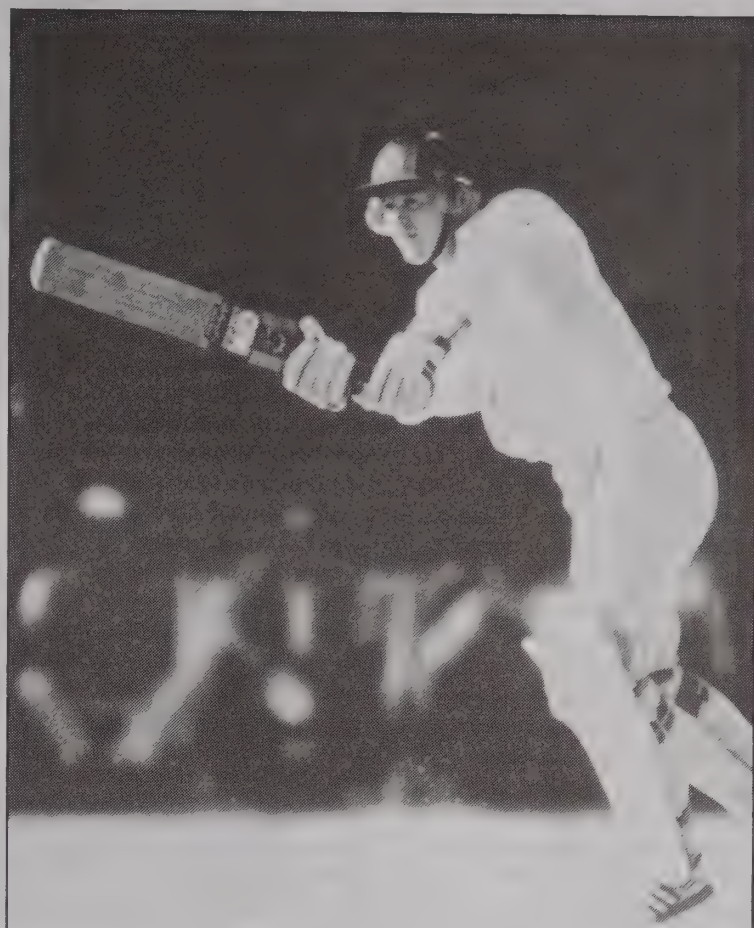
"Nerves used to be problem at the beginning of my career, but I've learned to control them."

Christianity and the support of his wife Kate have helped. "I am much more relaxed now and really enjoy my cricket."

Rhodes is very excited about the future of his country. "There was a great feeling of trepidation before the February election. It was feared by some that there would be a lot of violence. Thankfully, it went off peacefully. There is a great feeling of excitement and optimism. People are now very positive about the future."

Rhodes has helped develop young black cricketers in South Africa. He regularly visits the black townships to train and play with the children.

"Cricket used to be seen as a white, middle class game and most black children preferred soccer. But this is changing.



Big hitter: Jonty Rhodes is hungry for success

ALLSPORT

We have a cricket development programme in the townships, which has unearthed many players with a lot of potential.

"It won't be long before these players will be playing in provincial cricket, but it may be eight or nine years before they are ready to break into the Test team and South Africa has a fully representative team."

He has greatly enjoyed his

first tour of England and was especially thrilled to beat England at Lord's, the home of cricket.

"That was one of the best moments of my career. We are hungry for success after being banned from international cricket for so long and determined to make up for lost time. I loved playing at Lord's and can't wait to play there again."

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DN9/94

Letters to the Editor



the same. Could *DN* add weight to a request for more room?

We all like to chat with people we know and would prefer to be able to leave room for other people to pass by or simply look at the stands. Mrs P Elliott
Sheffield

Wheelchair v wife

I was disgusted to see the article about a man who was turned down for an electric wheelchair (*DN*, August) because he had a wife.

What right does Cambridge social services have to split up a marriage over an electric wheelchair? He wants his independence and care in the community was created for this type of need.

I attend a resource centre run by Surrey county council social services, and when I want anything or want to know something, or talk to someone, I receive without question whatever I request.

J V Muggeridge
Great Bookham
Surrey

Yoga on the NHS

I have just returned from a week's stay at Yoga for Health, so Michael Morgan's piece (*DN*, August) was especially interesting.

It is a good job Michael didn't ask where the tv was – there isn't one, not because it is disapproved of, but because a wholly different and quiet period is an important part of the approach. Indeed, the whole aura of tranquillity is an important part of helping my MS.

I must disagree with Michael's portrayal of yoga philosophy as being distinct and separate from the "exercise". In my view, he is losing a lot if he does not take the whole of yoga, but at the Bury you are free to take what you want and leave what you don't.

An important omission was the fact that some doctors can now prescribe a stay at the Bury at NHS expense. The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act requires local authorities to provide breaks for those assessed as needing them. The local MS Society may help towards the cost.

Brian White
London E17

Why not petrol microcars?

Who was it who first came up with the idea of putting a petrol engine on a mobility aid/microcar? They opened up a whole new world for disabled people. Here was a vehicle which had four wheels, a hard top, and whose only limit was the distance between petrol stations.

When are we going to see a re-emergence of these trusty little vehicles?

Tim Malpass
Nottingham

DN's motoring correspondent David Griffiths comments:

"The Outrider, Range Rider and Safari (battery and petrol) were all Class 3 petrol-operated vehicles. But there were problems governing a petrol-run engine to the statutory 8mph on the road and keeping it running reliably at a constant speed.

What we really need is a new class which could cover microcars like the Voiturette in France, which is permitted to go faster on the road but for which you need a special driving licence. The system used by Iveco Ford's Hybrid bus – small petrol engine driving a generator which provides current to an electric motor – could be the answer. It is also 'green'. (So far, there are two buses operating in Torquay.)"

Havering Shopmobility

Referring to the letter from Douglas Campbell criticising the Shopmobility scheme in Romford town centre (*DN*, May), Havering Shopmobility does not intentionally discriminate against any user or potential user of this service.

Saturday opening has always been the long-term objective of Havering council and the volunteers, but this was not practical while the scheme was still a pilot project.

Havering Shopmobility has now employed a full-time co-ordinator and in August we started opening all day on Saturday.

May I suggest that Mr Campbell or any other potential Saturday user contacts the co-ordinator, Keith Billingham, at Shopmobility, 1-3 Angel Way, Romford, Essex, tel: (0708) 739431.

Roger McFarland
Head of strategic & environmental planning
London Borough of Havering

A pain in the elbow

An area of misunderstanding of disability needs by able-bodied people was illustrated when my wife and I went to Wimbledon, having applied for special consideration as Orange Badge holders.

Parking and spectator facilities were wholly unsuitable for people with mobility problems, despite forewarning when we applied for seats on court.

Many organisations appear to believe that all disabled people are wheelchair users, whereas they represent less than 40 per cent of the total.

The All England Lawn Tennis Club's chief executive has written to me saying that in future the club will include our disability needs too.

We must keep up the pressure to get all-round improved facilities at public events.

Mike Rogers
Berkhamsted, Herts

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get a numb leg and trail it behind me like a mink stole." The height of fashion? More like the depths ...

Ardella's little joke

Ardella Jones, in the *Guardian's* "award-winning" weekend listings magazine, *The Guide*, hit a raw spot last month. Having plunged her knife into body piercing, she went for people who indulged in tattoos. "A posse of tattooed people arrive. They sport monstrous doodles evidently executed by palsied tattooists who'd dropped a tab of acid", she reports.

Warming to her theme, she finds an "emaciated super groupie" with a "single white, stick-like arm" that hangs limply by her side. "Isn't that great," she says, "a woman with a disability wearing that", and then adds, "I'm going to

Point of order

Thumbing through *Hansard*, we came across a little exchange between Labour MP Barry Sheerman and Speaker Betty Boothroyd. He had tried to book a small dining room for a party of disabled constituents at the end of November, "only to find that no booking is free until next year". Yet, if you pay £1,000 to the Conservative Party, you can dine in the Commons on a regular basis.

"There is obviously something wrong," responded the indefatigable Ms Boothroyd. She suggested a "two-pronged effect" – both of them would accost the chairman of the catering committee.

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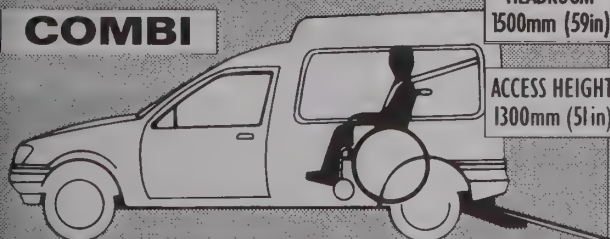
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CONVERSIONS



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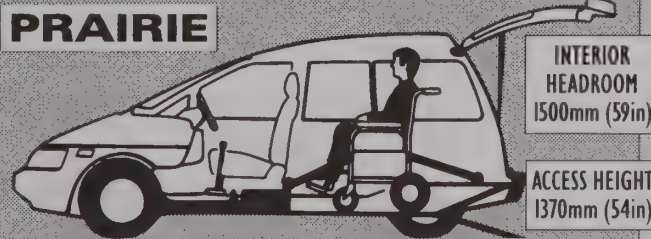
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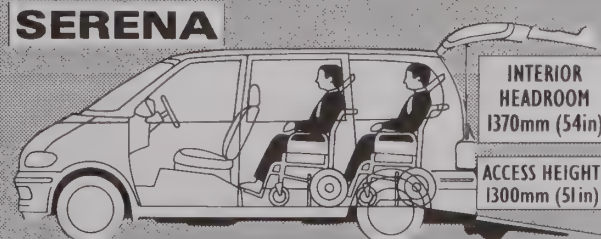
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Back to sc

A spot of modelling was all in a day's play for four

Summer's hardly over and, already, the high street stores are packed with woolly jumpers, polo necks and cosy anoraks. What will your child be wearing this autumn?

DN asked Jackie Whitworth, manager of The Style Centre, at Disabled Living Services, Manchester, to kit out four

under 10s, who have special clothing. (See photo left, from left to right) Tress, aged nine, has problems finding clothes which are comfortable for her. "We can't go by the sizes on the labels," says Vanessa's dad. "We find that searching for stretchy outfits are the best."

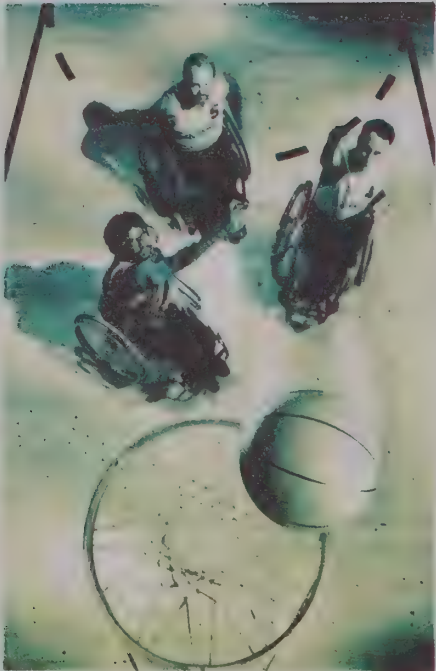
Sarah Humphries, aged six, has Patau's syndrome and scoliosis. She wears a Boston brace and has difficulty getting

Trendsetter, right: Katie wears a blue polo (cotton, £3.99) teamed with a denim/chambray pinafore (cotton, £9.99). To finish off the outfit, she adds a trendy red waistcoat (acrylic, £7.99). All from Mothercare, branches throughout the UK. (Hat modelled by Sarah)

A friendly hug, below: Katie (left) wears a blue swing top (cotton/polyester, £5.99) with ribbed leggings (cotton/elasticated waist (polyester/viscose) and a navy teddy bear motif jumpsuit (acrylic, £12.99). All from Mothercare. Red beret (one size, £3.50), from Red and Spencer's (M&S) children's



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Q. Is it easy to apply?

A. Yes. The combination of the unique cone, and new 'Easiroll' system allows you to control the speed of application for the smoothest possible fit.

Q. Will it stay on?

A. The unique skin-friendly adhesive, with its firm, but gentle hold, will not let you down – and won't cause discomfort.

For those who need or prefer a two-piece system, we can offer the Conveen Urisheath/Urilliner which provides comfort, flexibility and is specially designed to suit you.

Q. Is it comfortable to wear?

A. Yes. It's lightweight and the unique Urilliner adhesive is particularly skin friendly.

Q. It won't twist and leak, will it?

A. A special anti-kink feature stops the sheath twisting when you attach it to your drainage bag. So urine can't flow back and there's no risk of leakage.

Q. What about taking it off?

A. Removal is easy and painless. Unlike some adhesives, the Urilliner's skin-friendly adhesive causes no discomfort, or sticky residue on your skin.

Conveen Sterile Contoured Leg Bags bring comfort and mobility to catheter users.

Q. Will people notice I'm wearing it?

A. No. And you'll hardly notice it either. The honeycomb-like multi-channelling distributes urine evenly and the contoured shape makes it totally discreet, even under tight fitting clothing.

Q. What about leakage?

A. Leakage is not a problem. Conveen leg bags have a unique double welding all the way round, for complete security and peace of mind. And the unique 'flip-type' tap shuts with a reassuringly audible click.

Conveen Adjustable Contoured Leg Bag (non-sterile) is contoured for comfort and designed for discretion.

Q. I like to get about, is the bag big enough?

A. At 600ml, it's actually 20% bigger than other bags and it should allow you the freedom to travel in comfort for several hours.

Q. Can I adjust the connector?

A. Yes. Whether you're able to walk around, or are using a wheelchair, the connector can be cut to the length that suits you best.

Conveen Sterile Night Drainage Bag designed to give you a peaceful night's sleep.

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A. Of course. It has a specially wide inlet to help the flow and there's no possibility of urine flowing back. The bag offers you extra security against leakage too.

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ool in style

supermodels from Manchester, says Sarah Rigby

jumpers to fit. "It's not easy to bend in a brace," says Sarah's mum. "That's why roomy tops worn with leggings are good, and fun too."

Emma Hunt, also six with scoliosis, says: "I like to wear bright skirts. Ones with elastic around the waist are the best."

Four-year-old Katie Powell

starts mainstream school later this month. Although she'll be wearing a uniform, she likes dressing up at home. Her mum says: "Katie's a real show-off and likes leggings and jazzy hats. Dresses are usually too long and get caught in her chair."

Style Centre, tel: 061-832 3678.



Peepo, above: Sarah (left) chooses elasticated, zig-zag leggings (cotton/elastic, £9) with matching waistcoat (acrylic, £14) and navy polo (cotton, £8). Emma wears a navy and red tartan suit (jacket in cotton, skirt in polyester/viscose, £20). The loose jacket fits comfortably over the spine, while the elasticated, pleated skirt sits gently on the waist. Berets, navy and red (one size, £3.50). All from Marks and Spencer's children's range.



Stars and stripes left: Vanessa in a red polo (cotton, £9, M&S) teamed with red, seamless sweatpants (cotton, £13.50, Cotton-on) and a colourful zig-zag waistcoat (acrylic, £14, M&S). Cotton-on, Monmouth Place, Bath BA1 2NP, tel: (0225) 461155. Mail order only. RAY TOWERS/STUDIO 061

Bags of style, above: Sarah (left) wears a pale blue, padded, anorak (cotton/polyester, £22, M&S). Emma is in a cerise swing top (cotton/polyester, part of a set with matching leggings, £11.99, Mothercare) and navy ribbed leggings (cotton/elastic, £5.99 Mothercare). Navy swing anorak with warm, quilted lining (cotton, polyester, £19.99, Mothercare). Postman Pat bag, £4.99 Mothercare. Lunch box, model's own.

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Driving Japanese style

David Griffiths, DN's motoring correspondent, test drives the Toyota Corolla GLi



The Toyota Corolla: super little hatchback, but the controls are "not up to the job".

"I've got a Corolla outside with Japanese disabled driver adaptations" said David Smith, Toyota GB's vehicle development manager. And so it was that I found myself learning what it is like to be Japanese, disabled and roadable.

There can be no getting away from the fact that these controls are very different, and the technique required to operate them smoothly and safely needs practice, whether or not you have experience of other disabled driver adaptations.

Both accelerator and brake lie to the left, alongside, but above, the automatic transmission selector. With the selector in "drive", they are effectively slightly rearwards of it and introduce several problems when shifting from forward to reverse or into "park".

So as to minimise any danger for drivers falling forward in the event of a crash, the adaptations are placed further to the left than is really desirable, requiring the driver to adopt a rather strange upper limb position that could prove tiring for some.

Pushing *forward* activates the brakes, while pressing *down*

operates the accelerator. The unit is topped with a cleverly shaped, padded grip that incorporates indicator, horn and cruise control buttons.

With so much action required from a left hand placed amidst, directional control is under the sole command of the right hand, via a mushroom-shaped steering wheel spinner placed low down at around "twenty-past" in the dead ahead position.

The result is a strangely detached feel on the road, and

I have to admit to requiring more than my fair share of lanes on the M54.

Fortunately, the Corolla is one of the mildest and forgiving creatures you could wish for and took my sudden direction changes in its stride. Vice-free handling and superbly smooth power steering enabled me to attain a creditable tidy line in a remarkably short space of time. After 20 miles or so, I felt safe at the legal limit as the little three-door hatch purred happily along.

The brakes are superb – smooth, progressive and very powerful, thanks to the leverage provided by the controls.

Controlling the accelerator, again silky smooth in operation, is fine until adverse cambers and awkward manoeuvres are called for. Turning right out of a side road on an up-hill slope into sharp camber introduces loading and "G" factors affecting the driver's sitting position, which are all too easily transmitted into a sudden increase in acceleration (pretty scary to say the least, and positively dangerous in some situations).

Turning left was no problem. Hill starts were fine until I applied the parking brake. More than a little ingenuity was needed (by other drivers too) to release it and drive away.

Shifting to reverse was also difficult in some instances, while operating the ancillary controls, other than those mounted on the hand controls, proved impossible.

Impossible at night

Motoring in the dark was also impossible. I could neither operate the lights nor dip them without stopping or losing some control of the steering or accelerator.

To counteract some of these problems, there is a cruise control. Such devices are a boon for many disabled people, yet receive scant attention in the UK; they can only be operated in open-road conditions and should never be used in urban traffic. On the test vehicle, the control had been disconnected "for safety reasons".

The demonstration model was fitted with an ingenious disabled driver's seat incorporating a dual seat-back

adjustment with a wide choice of settings, removable seat inserts, zip-on upholstery (how much better to keep clean and fresh), and a fold-down side flap in matching upholstery to make lateral transfer from a wheelchair easier. The seat earned full marks from all users for its practicality and was a pleasure to use. But more padding is needed for a longer journey.

No gimmicks here

What of the car itself? Toyota is renowned for quality and reliability. This one is no exception. High standard finish and trimmings, augmented with a smooth power unit and a non-gimmicky simple, functional, three-speed automatic, should ensure that it helps retain the company's reputation as maker of some of the most reliable cars in the world.

Access is via wide opening doors with adequate headroom and, although the rear is steeply raked, the load space should take most wheelchairs.

One tends to sit rather low and feel near the windscreen – a feature which may put some people off.

Fascia layout is neat with clear, readable dials. Nice touches include the tachometer, adjustable headlamp beams and excellent soundproofing. Strangely, the central locking operates only on the driver's door.

Admiring glances, but ...

In general, the Corolla must be one of the top three hatches with automatic transmission on today's market and it certainly drew many admiring glances.

But the hand controls, well built and finished though they may be, were not, in my opinion, up to the job. I doubt very much whether anyone could satisfy a strict British driving test examiner using them, and they certainly deterred me from exploring the full potential of the car.

Also, the combination of downward accelerator operation and variable forces created by the vehicle's motion can create a potential hazard, and it would be safer were the movement to be a simple fore-aft one.

Toyotas are available for contract hire via Motability and outright purchase. With extended warranties, proven reliability and long life, outright purchase would seem a much better choice.

Japan has exported expertise, innovation and improved technology throughout the western world. But in the field of hand controls we may just be able to turn the tables. Any UK conversion companies want a stab at the Far East market?

Outright purchase of the Corolla through Motability costs £10,986. Special seat with gel cushion, £1,020. Adaptations about £980 excluding fitting and VAT. Toyota, tel: (0737) 768585.

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Curing with kindness

(2) Homeopathy has helped Lin Berwick and she in turn is helping other disabled people

Leeches, blood-letting (venesection), mustard baths and massive doses of noxious chemicals administered by apothecaries were the order of the day when Dr Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843) invented the science of homeopathy.

Dr Hahnemann could see the harm being done and was way ahead of his time in his solution. His theory, now proven, was to take a minute amount of a given substance and dilute it with alcohol and water (potentisation), which is then shaken vigorously under impact (succession) thus making the medicine safe and free from all side-effects.

Many people confuse homeopathy with herbal medicine. Homeopathy takes its remedies from many sources, including plants, buds, seeds, insects, animal and human tissue, and minerals.

To illustrate the infinitesimal dose, a six-time potency which can be freely obtained over the counter is one part per million of any given substance, so you see why there are no side-effects in homeopathy.

Potencies can go much higher than six times. The higher the potency, the more effective it is on deep-seated problems. Homeopathy is non-addictive and safe, even for pregnant mothers, babies and children.

Most people have heard of homeopathy, but they do not necessarily know its principles. The word comes from the Greek "homoeos" meaning "similar" and "pathy" meaning "suffering". In other words, it works rather like the principle of vaccination. You could give a person a substance in a minute form, which in its raw

state can cause the symptoms you are trying to prevent. For example, arsenicum, originally made from arsenic, is a wonderful remedy for sickness and upset tummy, especially when travelling abroad.

Homeopathy treats the whole person, taking into account height, weight, colour of eyes, emotions, family history, family traits, and so on. This is why it is vitally important, long term, not just to buy a remedy over the counter but to seek the advice of a qualified homeopath, because a remedy may not necessarily suit your constitutional type. In a crisis situation, there is no harm in using a general remedy at a low potency.

Hooked at 14

I have been a user of homeopathic remedies since I was 14. The approach made complete sense to me, particularly because I have been on the receiving end of some pretty nasty side-effects from conventional medicines.

I believe that wherever possible (and it is not always possible) we should not be piling great quantities of toxic chemicals into our bodies. They are fine-tuned machines that need to be handled with gentleness and care.

I have noticed for myself and (from talking to people with cerebral palsy) others too, that we seem to have different reactions (often more acute) to drugs than able-bodied people. That is why I prefer to be treated homeopathically.

Here are some comments from disabled people I have helped.

Beverley Hayes from Northwich, Cheshire, has cerebral palsy with mobility



Beverley Hayes treks in her boy friend's landrover: "Ruta Grav freed me from nagging pain"

difficulty and joint pain. She says: "Ruta Grav 200 has freed me from the the constant, nagging pain and put a sense of fun into my life. It eases my aches and pains, due largely to cerebral palsy, and fills me with confidence."

George Keen from Holland-on-Sea, Essex, who became tetraplegic after an accident 28 years ago, has pressure sores and chafed skin. He says: "After a few days of applying the Calendula cream and taking Calendula tablets 30c, I felt much more comfortable and my carer and the district nurse were amazed at the improvement. The sore, red area was much less inflamed and began to heal. I continued with the cream and tablets and have had no new flare-ups. I would recommend anyone to try it."

Homeopathy enables us to take control of our own lives, because we have more responsibility for "body management". It is not necessarily a passive treatment,



as the person must be prepared to change his or her lifestyle. It is wonderful when GPs co-operate and allow us to use homeopathy in conjunction with conventional medicine, if no "alternative" can be found.

Homeopathy can be prescribed on the NHS, but it is more usual to use a registered homeopath. You may be able to persuade your GP to refer you. The average cost, if private, would be £20 per session, plus remedies.

British Institute of Homeopathy. Tel: (0784) 440467.
The Homeopathic Association. Tel: 071-935 2163.
The Society of Homeopaths. Tel: (0604) 21400.

Lin Berwick was the first blind person to receive the British Institute of Homeopathy diploma. She is now working for a post-graduate degree. Her thesis: Homeopathy - Its Application in Disabling Conditions.

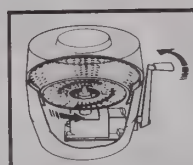
Rules for taking homeopathic remedies:
• Do not handle the remedy. Tip tablets from the bottle to cap and then straight into the mouth. Chew, allowing pieces to more or less dissolve in the mouth.
• Do not wash the tablets down with liquid. Avoid coffee, peppermint and coca-cola at all costs.
• Wait at least 15 minutes before or after taking

food or cleaning teeth.
• When taking conventional medicine and homeopathic remedies, allow at least 15 minutes to elapse either side.
• When also taking homeopathic medicine, never stop taking the conventional medicine unless overseen by a qualified homeopath. Particularly important for people with asthma.

Disability Now offers

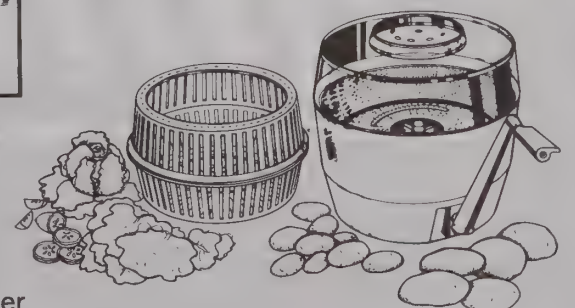
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Complementary Medicine and Disability

by Andrew Vickers
(Chapman & Hall, £13.95)

This book is a comprehensive lay person's guide to alternative medicine or therapies. Its language cuts through jargon and explains in a way we can understand.

It takes the reader through the various types of therapy in a logical sequence: touch therapies, such as massage, healing, reflexology, aromatherapy; metamorphic technique and polarity; oriental medicine including acupuncture, osteopathy, including cranial osteopathy; and chiropractic and self-help disciplines, such as meditation, yoga and creative visualisation. Oral medicines – homeopathy and herbal remedies – are also included.

There is a useful section which asks the obvious question:

"do they work?" and seeks an answer using clinical evidence. It comes down to the fact that if it helps, it is worth pursuing. You have nothing to lose.

What the book gets across extremely well is that these therapies are, for the most part, non-invasive and usually give one's body a feeling of well-being, although not necessarily a cure.

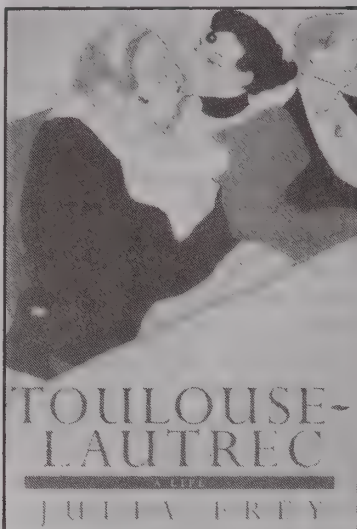
The great advantage of using these therapies is that for most disabled people it will be the first-time they have taken personal responsibility for their own healthcare. This is true empowerment. As a result, they can have a much better body image and a feeling of wholeness.

If you are interested in alternative therapy, then this is a good reference guide because it has addresses at the end of each section, as well as a guide to publications.

It is not definitive; more an overview of what is available. As the author says, the book is about "complementary" medicine, which may be used in conjunction with conventional treatment.

The author gives the reader the opportunity to take control of his/her own life, and if a book can get that message across, then it is well worth the cost.

Lin Berwick



Toulouse-Lautrec: A life by Julia Frey. (Weidenfeld, £25)

Unsurprisingly, this vast, detailed, fascinating book reads as if it were a novel. The life of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec combines potent stereotypes – the deformed genius, the decadent artist, the slumming aristocrat – and follows the familiar narrative pattern of self-destructive decline and premature death.

Henri (as the author insists on calling him) suffered from a congenital bone dysplasia caused by a recessive gene inherited from both parents (who were first cousins). Like

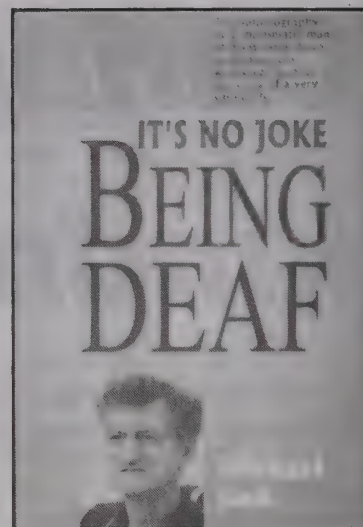
other disabled people in previous centuries, Henri was subjected to barbaric medical interventions, and grew up isolated and lonely.

Although the author is predictably fascinated by his deformity, his real disabilities were caused by alcoholism and the syphilis he contracted in Paris brothels. While his decline was tragic, his talent was undoubted, and he seems to have had an energetic *fin de siècle* lifestyle, gregarious, entertaining and accepted as a great artist. His short stature and deformed features may have been initially off-putting, but his beautiful eyes and brilliant intelligence won him admirers. Frey describes him as "irresistibly charming but unrelentingly tyrannical" and, because of his privileged background, insecurity and self-centredness, he seems to have been demanding and difficult.

While she is good on the art, Frey's attitude to disability is often prejudiced, and she resorts to supposition and whimsy, especially in describing Henri's childhood. But this account remains full of interest: we learn, for example, that Henri pioneered the new Parisian taste for "American drinks" (cocktails), and an interesting parallel is drawn with Oscar Wilde.

In the end, most of the features of Toulouse-Lautrec's life cannot be directly attributed to his disability – his artistic trajectory echoed many others, for example his friend Van Gogh. However, disabled people will find much familiar, and will probably end up with more insight into this difficult personality than his biographer.

Tom Shakespeare



It's No Joke Being Deaf by Michael Jack
(Cortney Publications, 57 Ashwell Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Herts SG7 5QT, £9.95.)

Michael Jack was born with a hearing loss over 70 years ago. I first came across this extraordinary man in the early '80s when he published *Life Among the Dead*, a very humorous account of 40 years spent mowing the grass of Kentish graveyards.

Now Michael has spent three years writing his life story, in which his disability often drove him "to develop interests which have given pleasures which otherwise might have been missed".

A happy family life offset the difficulties which a public school education presented for a child with hearing loss. On leaving school, Michael studied medicine but again found himself having difficulties.

In the austerity of the post-war years, Michael and his wife Audrey struggled to manage a farm against the enormous odds of rationing. No Pop and Ma Larkin, the Jacks eventually had to give it up, but not before many adventures.

Success came when Michael set up his own gardening business and worked on churchyards throughout Kent. In this part of the book he introduces many fascinating local people, and also glimpses of village life from a bygone era to the Channel Tunnel.

A historian with a fascination for playground church organs, dowsing and leading expeditions down the ancient drains of Canterbury Cathedral, Michael's varied life is a joy to read. What's more, it's one of those rare books that has you laughing out loud.

Maggie Woolley

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Book news

What to Do When Someone Dies will help anyone faced with the practical arrangements that must be made. £9.99. The Consumer's Association, 359-61 Euston Road, London NW1 4DF.

One hundred cost-cutting recipes for special occasions are included in *Age Concern's Eating On A Budget*. £6.95. The Publications Unit, Age Concern, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

FILM

Andy
Kimpton-Nye

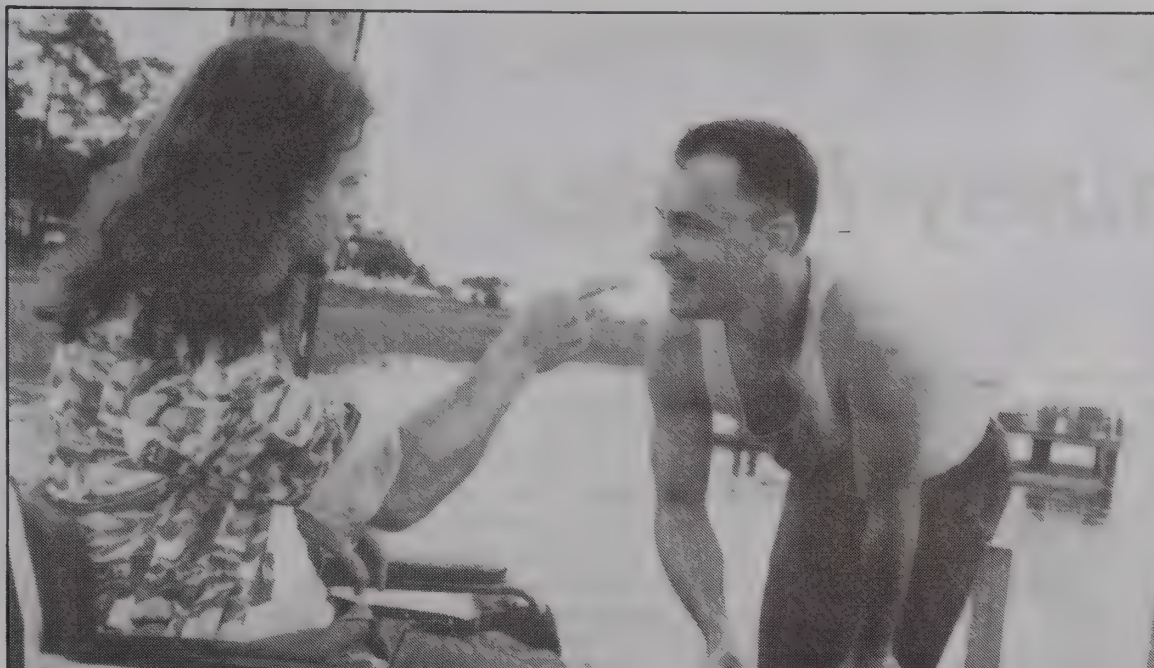


Forrest Gump

I hugely enjoyed this tear-jerking tale of American history since the fifties as seen through the eyes of a character with learning difficulties – Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks). I wasn't distracted throughout the entire 130 minutes. A recommendation in itself.

However, I still have reservations. The story-telling device has Forrest sitting on a bench for two whole hours waiting for a bus to arrive, while he looks back on his life watching bus after bus go by. He blithely chats away to anyone who will listen. The movie seems to say it's quite natural, for someone with learning difficulties to do something as absent-minded as this.

Isn't that a stereotypical view of someone with a low



Forrest (Tom Hanks, right) saved the life of Lieutenant Dan (Gary Sinise) last time they met

IQ? That's certainly how it struck me.

Also, Forrest's character blatantly lacks consistency. Ninety-nine per cent of the time he has no insight into his impairment and how cruel life can be. He is oblivious to the fact that his mother is forced to dish out sexual favours to get him a place at a "normal" school, that his best friend Jenny is being abused by her father, and so on. But, the moment he discovers he has a three-year-old son his first question is: "Is he like me?"

Suddenly, Forrest is aware how disabling life can be for someone with a mental

impairment. I suspect this is a case of the film-makers giving voice to their own personal fears about disability, rather than them being true to Forrest's characterisation.

Then, we have Tom Hanks turning up trumps in another "pity me" role. Recently, it was a character dying of AIDS in *Philadelphia*. Now it's a wide-eyed, serene innocent with learning difficulties.

From time to time, certain non-disabled actors do

remarkably well out of disabled roles. In the twenties, Lon (the man of thousand faces) Chaney turned up as the phantom of the opera and the hunchback of Notre Dame. In recent times, Dustin Hoffman has played one disability or another in *Midnight Cowboy*, *Papillon* and *Rainman*.

I wonder if Hanks, with his particular brand of sympathetic boyish charm, is destined to play the high-profile disabled roles of the nineties.

Video top five

closed captions,
S: subtitles, N: nothing

1. MALICE (Polygram): medical mistake leads to thriller. (N)

2. ANOTHER STAKEOUT (Touchstone): cop-duo Emilio Estevez and Richard Dreyfuss in stakeout caper. □

3. GUILTY AS SIN (Hollywood): lawyer falls for man accused of murder. □

4. CARLITO'S WAY (CIC): will Al Pacino escape his violent past? □

5. A PERFECT WORLD (Warner): fatherless boy adopts Kevin Costner as hero. □

Chart courtesy of MRIB

Touch panels go on tour

For the UK's estimated one million blind or partially sighted people, a new initiative by BT and the South Bank Centre's National Touring Exhibitions is very welcome.

Touch panels will accompany *Spotlight on Francis Bacon*, an exhibition which examines closely one artist and a single piece of his work: *Study for a portrait of Van Gogh* (1957). At the Towner Gallery in Eastbourne until 9 October, it then goes on tour.

Having used thermoforms (plastic sheets with raised representations of pictures, diagrams, architecture) that you can read by touch, made by the Living Paintings Trust, I was interested to try out these new touch panels.

They are placed on a table adjacent to the painting. Seating is comfortable. Large print guide notes explain fully

how to use the four touch panels, which describe the whole painting, then take in the details of forms, shadows and colour. Quite riveting.

The touch panels fit in alongside the notes for easy reference. The taped version is beautifully read and can be heard through the comfortable headphones. And there is also an excellent table lamp with attached magnifying glass.

Much credit is due to everyone involved. It is a good example of co-operation and communication.

Gioya Steinke

National Touring Exhibitions,
tel: 071-921 0837.

Towner Art Gallery and Museum, tel: (0323) 417961.
The Living Paintings Trust, a free library service for visually impaired people in their own homes, tel: (0734) 700 776.

Look out for

Jane Austen's *Emma* by the Cambridge Theatre Company, with sign-language interpreted performances. Premiere at the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton, 7 September and then touring country, tel: 071-401 9777.

Extra access performances at the Royal Opera House (ROH): *La Cenerentola*, 8 and

12 October, 7.30pm; *Romeo et Juliette*, 1 November, 7pm; *Turandot*, 2 November, 7.30pm. Postal bookings to: Julie Johnson, ROH Box Office, 48 Floral Street, London WC2E 7QA.

Creative theatre workshops, one-offs or a six-week course for children with special needs, run by the Polka Theatre for Children in London. £2 per child per session. Contact Naomi Adler, tel: 081-543 0363.

TV

Chris Davies



Over the Edge (BBC2) is the late-night, single-issue relation of *From the Edge*. This year's second series is shorter (30 minutes instead of 45) and better – most of the time.

With only one of the six still to be transmitted, there is a clear winner and two runners-up.

David Hevey comes over as an outstanding exponent of disability photographic imagery with his "The Tragic and The Blessed" (9 August). This, and his earlier series *Poor Dear*, make him the best disabled producer and director we have. Visually, his work is as near perfect as possible, and he never takes easy options with content, such as just using people who are visually or verbally acceptable to the viewer. His people challenge accepted norms and, as someone who occasionally appears on screen and gets frustrated at being virtually the only one like this, I can only thank God, or someone, for David Hevey.

His film, about being disabled in Ireland, contrasts Irish implementation of anti-discrimination legislation with attitudes to disability that are still immersed in religious preconceptions of tragedy. A minor fault was the narration, occasionally repetitious and delivered in a flat way – ironically by David Hevey.

My runners-up are "Breaking the Rules" (19 July) and "Mother's Pride" (26 July). I'm glad that at long last the performing group of people with learning disabilities, Heart 'n' Soul, have a tv vehicle worthy of their talents. The performers always spoke for themselves and the strength of their personalities shone through. Putting Pino and Geoffrey into the head-to-head scenario made famous by Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones was an inspired move.

In the spate of programmes about disabled mothers, "Mother's Pride" was different. Tracey Proudlock is a natural for tv and this was a video diary of her pregnancy. The suspense was sometimes quite unbearable. Congratulations to Tracey, and Elspeth Morrison, who produced it.

The Libby Cross film "The Spark" (2 August) didn't spark me, and I'm sorry. I wanted the Glaswegian with HIV to overcome any public aversion to his impairment. For me, it didn't happen.

The first in *The Wannabees* series (12 July) I just couldn't warm to. Two non-disabled men obsessed with wanting to be amputees was too near freakish to be comfortable.

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Ahead of the crowds at Wembley Naidex

DN readers can be first off the blocks with this sneak preview by Nazli Hussain

Getting active and sporty will be the name of the game at Naidex International '94, so Wembley is a fitting venue.

More than 200 companies, organisations and charities will be lining up at the London show from 27-29 September at the Wembley Exhibition and Conference Centre.

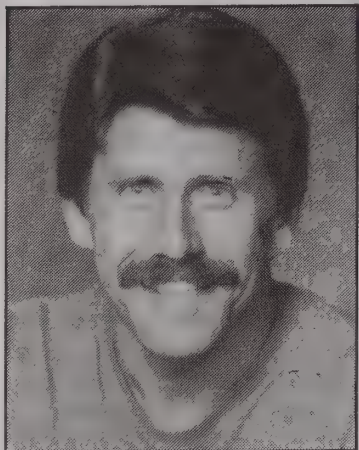
Kung Fu, fencing, power-lifting and table tennis are among the sports featured. Athletes, celebrities and models will be helping to make the exhibition go with a swing, as Naidex celebrates its 21st year.

Sunrise Medical gets in the mood in the run-up to the next Paralympics in Atlanta, Georgia in 1996 with products for sportsmen and women. There are two new manual wheelchairs: the Quickie EX, the first Quickie rigid chair for under £1,000, and the restyled Breezy, which incorporates a greater range of seat heights and other new options.

Look out for displays of wheelchair fencing, and also

wheelchair Kung Fu, with American star Ron Scanlon on the Sunrise Medical stands.

Trimchair is a mobile exercise system for exercising the upper and lower body.



Kung Fu star: Ron Scanlon

Designed for independent use, it can be adjusted to suit all fitness levels. New features include easier access to the chair and improved exercise functions. V & A Marketing is making a special offer at Wembley Naidex to DN readers (see box above right).

Some people use a powered scooter for keeping on the move. But steering with both hands can prove tiring and difficult. Gerald Simonds Healthcare are launching the new Cat Scooter which has a

one-handed steering handle, leaving the other hand free for opening doors. Available in different colours, the Cat can travel up to 20 miles on a single battery charge at a maximum speed of four mph.

After a vigorous workout session you may want to have a relaxing bath. Cane and Able have a new, strong, portable bathboard, which comes with a lifetime guarantee. The Dynamic Life Bathboard can be collapsed down in seconds for transfer to another bath, or to go in the bottom of a suitcase.

Cane and Able is also launching its Dignity china at Naidex. If you have problems steadying your cup, yet do not want a child's beaker, this new range may be the answer. Dishwasher and microwave safe, the cups, plates and bowls have subtle features to help you eat and drink on your own.

Cosyfeet, the footwear company, has developed two new items, the Stretch Shoe and the Longlasting Slipper.

The Stretch Shoe is made from neoprene, a material usually used for wet suits. The neoprene stretches like elastic to fit any shape of foot, and will help people with swollen feet. Try them out at the Cosyfeet stand.



Special Naidex offer for DN readers

You will be £100 better off if you buy Trimchair, the sporty mobile multi-exercise system (above), at Naidex. Manufacturers V & A Marketing are making a special offer to DN readers only during the three-day exhibition. Trimchair will be £895 (excl VAT), compared to the recommended retail price of £995.

Just go along to the Wheelchair Corporation/V & A Marketing stand (no.001A) armed with a copy of DN.

The Longlasting Slippers have soles made of rubber which may never wear out. Non-slip on a variety of surfaces, they have been designed for elderly people, and will be available next year.

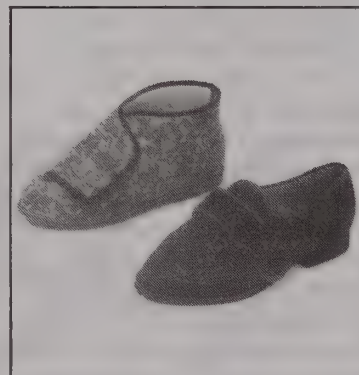
Other special events at Naidex include the Wheelchair Test Track, where you can take a ride and try out the

latest wheelchairs and scooters, and the New Product Showcase, where you can vote for the year's best new product.

If you want to keep up with fashion, don't forget to make a date for "The Sunrise Style Machine", the first-ever professional wheelchair fashion show. It will feature Jason Ward and Shannon Murray, winners of the recent Sunrise Medical/Disability Now Model in a Million competition, strutting their stuff along with other disabled models.

Naidex '94, ticket requests only, tel: 081 910 7873

A courtesy bus for disabled people will operate between Euston Bus station, Kings Cross & Wembley Exhibition Centre. Check times with depot.



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DN winners miss their salmon tea

The dry summer proved a bit of a dampener for Jennie Grieve of Nottingham, a 1994 *Disability Now*/Clos-O-Mat Fly Fishing competition winner, on her trip to Scotland.

"We're trying to keep it quiet, but we didn't actually catch anything. We blame it on the long, dry spell affecting the salmon," she said.

"But we had a very enjoyable time overall. We were treated wonderfully, not just me, but my carer Tony Bennett as well. It was as though he had won a prize too."

Runner-up Jennie, and winner Tom Nicholls of Llanwnda, Caernarfon, spent the best part of a week fishing on the River Doon in Scotland and staying at the Hospitality Inn, Irvine.

For Tom Nicholls, who has ME, the holiday was marred by exhaustion from travelling up to Scotland. He only managed two days fishing, missing the final day, the photo-call and winners' meal.

"But it was a lovely hotel. The service and generosity of the staff were second to none, and in that respect I did enjoy myself thoroughly. I shall be entering the competition again."

Clos-O-Mat chairman Robert Willan was disappointed by the lack of fish, but pleased that the winners had had a good time.

He confirmed: "We are looking forward to running the competition again next year".

Photocall for Jennie Grieve with (from left) Tony Bennett, Clos-O-Mat works manager Jim McManus and ghillie Colin McKenzie.

ROBERT STEWART



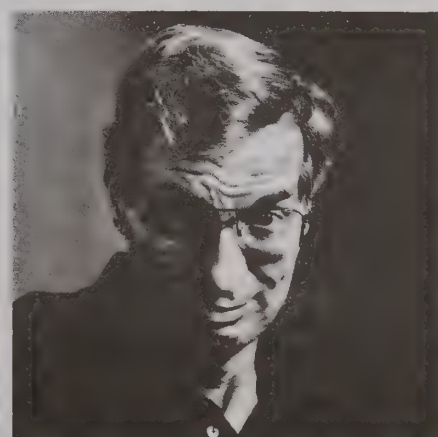
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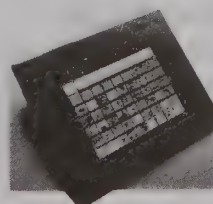
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So if you know someone who might benefit from the DynaVox — and from new DynaWrite software — we urge you to contact your therapist. Or give us a call.



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Wheelchair wonder

"Mummy, oh mummy," yells dear little Sam, "Why is that lady in such a big pram?" We're in a huge shop, crowds of people around — his poor mother panics. She prays for the ground to open beneath her and swallow them both. She grabs little Sammy, but bless him, he's loathe To give up his quest of why I'm in a chair; "So why don't her legs work?" he shouts to the air! By now his poor mum's in a terrible state and she drags Sam away at a heck of a rate! But it is such a shame that the mums suffer so, For there really is no need to panic, and go. These kids don't upset me, they just make me smile And I think that, maybe, we should linger awhile, Say "hello" and be friendly, so they will learn That folk sat in wheelchairs aren't stuffy and stern; That we're just normal people on wheels and not feet It will be so much better the next time we meet!

Phyll Western

Share Your Problems

Making love with a sense of humour



Ann Darnbrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

"I walk with the aid of a cane and make love with a sense of humour." With these words, it seems to me, Susan says it all. When you think about it, making love is a humorous enough activity for able-bodied, athletic types, but for the rest of us with stiff joints and parts that don't function as nature intended, if we didn't laugh we might feel like giving up.

Besides, spontaneous laughter is a great aid to pleasure. Susan goes on to say that she used to worry about her body betraying her with "peculiar" sounds and smells, but not any more — she and her partner just see the funny side.

Then, there are all the arrangements that some disabled people have to make before lovemaking can begin. Kate writes for *Inside*, the Outsiders' Club magazine. "Sex for us does require a little planning, flexibility, creativity, trust and, mostly, a sense of humour (despite the fact that some guys think that laughter and sex are incompatible)."

Can sex and disability go together? Linda Crabtree, editor of *It's Okay!* says: "Yes

and no. The majority of us are capable of accepting and returning love and having a good sexual relationship with someone else. But is there someone out there for us? Probably, but finding them isn't as easy as it is for those who are able-bodied. We simply don't have the options open to us ...

"As I write and talk to more people who are interested and want to get involved, I know we have just begun to open up a door that has always been closed. Now that the door has been cracked, there will be no stopping us. *It's Okay!* will do its level best to address the topic in a sensitive, frank manner. And we'll find out how, if we choose, to take our place in the wonderful world of intimacy, love, romance, family, parenting and, yes, sex."

A bar to sex

Incontinence can prove a great bar to enjoying sexual activity. Regular readers may remember a discussion we had some time ago about intermittent catheterisation (ISC) as a means of controlling urine flow

at inconvenient times (*DN*, November 1993). ISC has proved a boon to some people, but resulted in frustration for others — usually because they have not received proper professional help.

Mike (not his real name) won through in the end: "My experience of ISC ranges from the horrific to the okay. I would say that it has only been in the last five months that I have been able to take it in my stride, with me controlling 'it', rather than 'it' controlling me.

Horrific experience

"I would like to stress how vital it is to be taught gently and patiently by an understanding and experienced person, and ideally at home or in a safe environment. This is where the 'horrific' part of my experience comes in, because I was taught in the urology ward of a busy general hospital, where I was the odd one out, everyone else being of retirement age, or more, with prostate problems.

"To make matters worse, I was only ever shown how to do it once, by a relatively inexperienced and harassed junior doctor. Left entirely on my own, I had nothing but problems: difficulty in passing the catheter (anything from 30-45 minutes); constant blood in my urine; and considerable psychological trauma having not had enough time to adjust to the task of pushing a lengthy foreign object into my body about six times a day, when I didn't really know what I was doing or what damage I might be doing to myself."

After some horrific experiences with insensitive professionals, Mike finally had a breakthrough when he was referred to a local continence adviser: "She was marvellous. She understood my problems, which in itself was a great relief as I no longer felt so alone and isolated. She congratulated me on having done so much by myself and

there was a less belligerent word than "fight".

"I too have problems with the idea of 'fighting' disability, but would go even further. All too often the implication is that disabled people have failed unless they can be seen to be 'fighting'. This is demoralising to those of us who are preoccupied with just 'getting by'. In a way I do admire the fighters, but I also envy their energy and enthusiasm and feel a little cynical about it. The press (not just *DN*) is packed with stories of disabled people who travel the world, in spite of their disability. What is less often mentioned is that most of them seem to have few money problems and also carers with the leisure and energy to do all the hard work. But people like myself, with MS fatigue, find that to fight aggressively is counter productive — it just drains us of the energy we need to cope with day-to-day living.

"However, perhaps this is just the pot calling the kettle black. I felt (and probably sounded) censorious when another MS person I know gave up his job not long after being diagnosed. Perhaps, for his part, he envies my energy to 'fight', whereas I just regard it as a response to necessity. I still work part-time, not only because we need the money, but because the routine helps me to keep mobile.

"So we need a new term — but what? 'Accept' is hardly right. 'Survive', 'get by', even 'live'? ... No, I am stumped too. And if anyone can think of a better word, please, please, don't let it become a matter of political correctness!"

Outsiders Club, PO Box 4ZB, London W1A 4ZB.
It's Okay!, *Phoenix Counsel Inc, 1 Springbank Drive, St Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2S 2K1. Subscription costs £12.50 per year (quarterly).*
Association of Self-Catheterisers — Unite and Support (ASC-US) has an advice service. Contact Tricia Fleet, tel: (0603) 57155, 7pm-8pm weekdays or Keith Bowen, 20 Neville Grove, Swillington, Leeds LS26 8QNA, tel/fax: (0532) 872068.

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

The *DN* telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psycho-therapeutic

counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and qualified homeopath.

Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems.

Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.

having learnt some of the skills 'the hard way'. It was her help, coupled with the support of my wife and the privacy of my own home, that has got me to the stage I am now. I have much more freedom, as I know with greater accuracy how long I can go without needing a loo, how much I can drink and when, and the times (down to four times a day) that I need to use the catheter. Although I still wear an incontinence pad, as accidents will happen, I very rarely have a drenching now. I would certainly prefer this method to having a permanent catheter fitted."

Accepting our lot

Fight or flight? Gordon replied to my question about whether as disabled people we should accept our lot passively or whether we should fight bad situations. I also asked whether



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A warm welcome awaits all our guests old and new

Happy school days are here again

Nazli Hussain reports on how to gear up your kids for the school bell

Parents will be busy getting their youngsters ready for school this month.

To help your child concentrate and practise motor control, you could try the **Magnetic Fishing Game** from Raven Educational. The baseboards come in a range of designs – Under-Sea, Ladybird and Fishes. The magnetic fishing rod and line separate to give different ways of catching the jigsaw pieces, which can be left in the base board or scattered over a table. There is also an aquarium available so children can try their luck at fishing without seeing the fish. Prices from £6.95. Tel: (0933) 279108.

The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) sells a wide range of products including items to help with learning. Its new **Activity Board** is a fun work-station for visually impaired children, aged three and over. A

colourful board with rivets, templates and inserts, it helps children learn about patterns and shapes. From £20.60.



"Coca-cola" jigsaw

RNIB Customer Services. Calls charged at local rate, tel: (0345) 023153.

Kids both large and small enjoy getting to grips with puzzles and jigsaws. Rompa's latest catalogue features two puzzles with the well known "Burger King" and "Coca

Cola" logos. The puzzles have large easy-to-handle pieces. £13.95 each. Tel: LocalCall (0645) 211777.

For children who find it hard to hold a pencil or brush, the **Grip Extensions** from Nottingham Rehab could be a help. Comfortable and easy to handle, the chunky, triangular, vinyl pencil grips come in packs of 20. £6.95. Brush and pen holders are also available. £2.05 each. Prices exclude p&p and VAT. Tel: (0602) 452345.

And as the big first day at school approaches, what items will help keep little Johnny and Katy smiling on their way to the classroom?

Mysie Sutherland, senior team leader at The Spastics Society's Rutland House School in Nottingham, works with pre-school children. "Most children want to have things that their classmates have. And parents tend to



Colourful cartoon knapsacks and rucksacks are popular

adapt items for their child's individual needs.

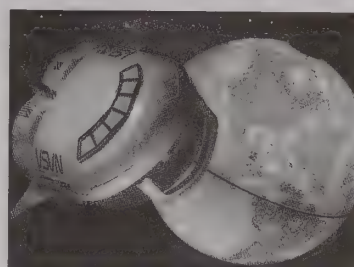
"Children love attractive and colourful things, and the aim is to have things that are as normal as possible."

Just for starters, knapsacks and rucksacks are very popular for taking to school. There are

lots of colourful cartoon and animal rucksacks in the high street, and it is handy to get a washable one. Mothercare stores have **rucksacks** and **shoebags** with "Postman Pat" characters. Rucksack £4.99, shoebag £2.50.

For packed lunches, some kids may like a plain **lunch case** in stylish lemon, aqua or red. £7.99, from Childrens World stores.

Or if a they dream of being an astronaut, a space shuttle **lunchbox** may be in order. £3.99, from Woolworths. So, get set, get ready and get off to school on time!



Space shuttle lunch box



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WHAT'S ON

A Rewarding Experience? Making the Most of Your Time, the annual conference of Shared UK on 8 September at Leicester University. Contact Anne Williams, Shared Care UK, tel: (0272) 238137/467230.

Abdominal Massage in the Relief of Chronic Constipation, a workshop on 10 September in Willington, Co Durham. £30. Contact Sister Richards, Disability Services, tel: (0388) 605959.

8th International Conference on Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, on 14-16 September in Sydney, Australia. Contact Kim King, co-ordinator, GPO Box 128, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia.

10th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, on 21-23 September in Edinburgh. Details from CEP Consultants, tel: 031-557 2478.

Independent Living and Standards for Provision of Personal Assistance, a conference on 22 September in London. Details from Barbara Zipser, Greater London Association of Disabled People, tel/minicom: 0171-274 0107.

Computer Skills Training, a home-based, 23-week course for disabled adults living in Barking, Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, starting late September. Free. Details from Kevin Hamilton, tel: 081-673 3168.

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Sexual Abuse and People with Learning Difficulties: Developing Access to Community Services is a report from the Family Planning Association (FPA). £5.99, from Healthwise, 27-25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 7RJ, tel: 071-636 7866. For mail order add £2.50 p&p).

Let's Go! is a calendar of nationwide leisure events and activities for blind and partially sighted children and their families. Free, from the Information Services, Royal National Institute for the Blind Education, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA.

Services for Disabled People is an up-dated guide to Leicester City Council Services covering benefits, carers, housing and leisure services. Free, from the Public Relations Unit, Leicester City Council, New Walk Centre, Leicester LE1 6ZG.

Grampian Caredata is offering a freephone service giving information on local community and health services for people in the Grampian area. Call office hours, tel: (0800) 136 225.

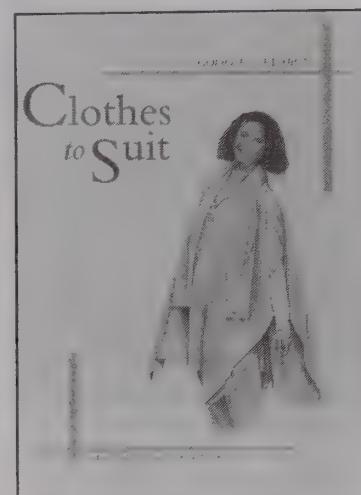
A tourist information leaflet and map for disabled people visiting London is available free from city libraries and the tourist information office in St Paul's churchyard. It gives advice on parking and lists accessible toilets.

A nationwide register which lists teachers of braille and moon has been compiled by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). If you are looking for a teacher, contact

INFO

RNIB Customer Services, tel: (0345) 023145.

Hearing Problems is a booklet for people with a hearing impairment. It gives advice on hearing aids, hearing protection and types of hearing loss and their effect. £2 (inc p&p), from The Secretary, South East Regional Association for the Deaf, Whitethorns, Rannoch Road, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1RA.



Clothes to Suit (above) is a fully illustrated booklet for people with scoliosis. It gives tips on adapting dressmaking patterns, and shows how high street fashion can be worn. £5.50, from The Scoliosis Association, 2 Ivebury Court, 323-327 Latimer Road, London W10 6RA, tel: 081-964 5343.

SNAP is an independent advisory service, based in Cardiff, for parents of children with special educational needs. Tel: (0446) 744900.

The **Sheltered Housing Directory** is a register of retirement houses for rent. It is available in seven regional volumes and covers homes offered by local authorities, housing associations, societies and charities. South East, £14.95, South West, £14.95, Midlands, £14.95, North, £14.95, Scotland, £12.95, Wales, £12.95, Northern Ireland, £9.95, from The Directory of Social Change, Radio Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL, fax: 071-23 3445.

Club 50/50 Music is a "shop at home" music and video service. It offers a full range of titles and artists including chart-toppers, country and western, classical music and jazz. Tel: (0249) 445400 for free catalogue.

The A to Z of Services for People With Disabilities **Lewisham** is available free to disabled residents of Lewisham from Lewisham social service district office, neighbourhood offices, local libraries and council information points.

Is there anyone with **Prader Willi syndrome** in your family? If you would like support and information about local groups, contact Mary Rosemary Johnson, The Prader Willi Syndrome Association (UK), 2 Wheatsheaf Close, Woking, Surrey GU24 4BP, tel: (0483) 724784.

Coping with Back Pain is an audio tape designed to help employees — and anyone with chronic back pain — to manage their pain. Double cassette version, £11.99, shorter version, £7.55 (inc p&p), from Back Programme, PO Box Wirral L47 7DD. (Cheques payable to WLAP.)

A video which gives advice on **Ehlers-Danlos syndrome** covers the medical problems associated with the condition. Minimum donation of £7.50 from the Ehlers-Danlos Support Group, 1 Chandler Close, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 5QQ, tel: (0748) 82386.

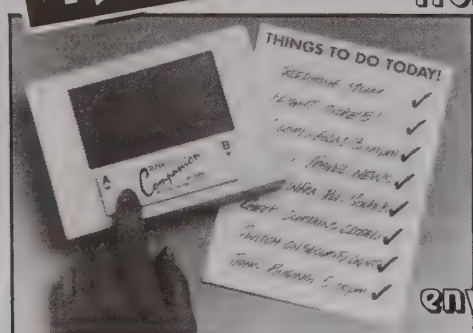
The Community Work Skills Manual is a book written for practising and/or experienced community workers. It covers community work roles and responsibilities, tackling inequalities, campaigning and working with groups. £ (plus £3.50 p&p), from Association of Community Workers, Stephenson Building, Elswick Road, Newcastle upon-Tyne NE4 6SQ, tel: 09 272 4341.

APPOINTMENTS

Stuart Etherington, chair executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People, has been appointed director of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations.

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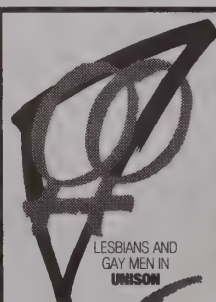
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UNISON's second Lesbian and Gay Conference

will be held in Glasgow on
11-13 November 1994

The conference is open to all lesbians and gay men in UNISON and is the main forum for developing the union's policy on lesbian and gay issues. Places are limited, but will be allocated on the basis of fair representation and proportionality.

The programme will combine workshops, speakers and full conference sessions debating motions. There will be meetings of regional, service, black members' and disabled members' groups. The venue is accessible.

UNISON's national meetings for black and disabled lesbian and gay members will take place on 16/17 September at UNISON, 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.

The disabled caucus will meet on 16 September and the black caucus on 17 September.

The aim of the meetings is to discuss the work of the caucuses, elect the caucus representatives and draw up caucus motions to the national conference in November.

UNISON publishes a
free quarterly bulletin
called **Out in UNISON**,
and has produced a
lesbian and gay video.



For more details about
the second UNISON
Lesbian and Gay
Conference and/or
caucus meetings or to
request your copy of
Out in UNISON or the
video, contact
Denise Pallis or
Carola Towle at
UNISON,
1 Mabledon Place,
London WC1H 9AJ.
Telephone:
071-388 2366 ext 262.

In the drink, and loving it

"Swim the Channel? No way will anyone get me throwing myself into water, smothered in goose dripping and heading for France. Forget it!"

So why was I – being of sound mind, strong-willed, adamant and determined – nine months later aboard a large, ex-naval fleet tender, in July, in pitch darkness?

The answer: a team of disabled and able-bodied divers would attempt to swim, in relay, along the approximate line of the Channel Tunnel, a distance of 23 miles, but because of the strong tides more likely 43 miles. This feat was being made possible by using a number of Scubapro Seashuttle propulsion vehicles and the MS Manley, normally used for diving charter trips, as escort.

"Go!" came the command from the bridge.

"Who me?"

"Yes, you, now!" added my comrade, adding weight to his words with a friendly shove in the back. Suddenly, I *was* swimming in the Channel.

The team of eleven swimmers took it in turn, each taking an hour long stint of the 22-hour crossing. We were accompanied by two Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs) to help us navigate towards France. In all, the trip took half the time we had estimated, thanks to the unusually sunny weather and calm seas, plus the skill of Colin, the MS Manley's pilot, whose navigation prevented us being run down by the extremely large ships that loomed out of the gloom.

We arrived on the beach near Calais to tremendous applause. We had done it and, with time to spare, made a quick visit to the local supermarket in Boulogne to stock up on "du vin rouge".

Then it was back to Brighton where, just out to sea, the entire team slipped surreptitiously from the MS Manley into the water and swept grandly around the corner to enter the marina in triumphant line-abreast to a civic reception. Led by the Mayor of Brighton and a welcoming committee, we were offered large volumes of champagne, gratefully received, which rounded off our adventure perfectly.

So why did we do it? Because the Channel has never been crossed before in that manner, so establishing a record. To raise funds for a Midlands-based charity called EDIT, which teaches disabled people information technology and helps them find employment using their new skills. To raise awareness of scuba diving for people with disabilities.

Leon Golding



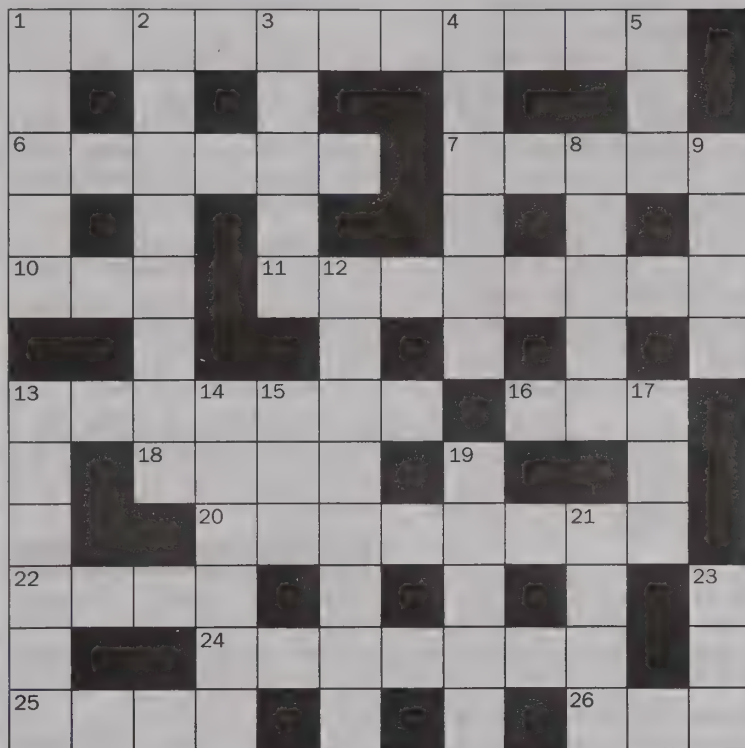
August winner

The £10 prize goes to Peter Davies of Barry, South Glamorgan. Tommy is saying: "Typical of social services - I ask for Madonna and they send me someone from *Playschool*." Thanks to all who entered. Do not despair create-a-caption lovers, more are planned.

DN's crossword

Answers on page 31

BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. Perilously (11)
6. Winner (6)
7. Walt Disney film (5)
10. Zodiac sign (3)
11. Leave nut (anag) (8)
13. Quality shown by 6 across?(7)
16. Female pronoun (3)
18. Chair (4)
20. Hurtful or harsh (8)
22. Small reptile (4)
24. Avoidance (7)
25. Chief or leader (4)
26. Finish (3)

DOWN

1. Evil spirit (5)
2. Boy's name (8)
3. Wear away (5)
4. Not fastened (6)
5. Slang for hooligan (3)
8. Opening or entrance (5)
9. Greasy (4)
12. Upright (8)
13. Part of tree (6)
14. Type of interest? (6)
15. Consume (3)
17. Type of cosy, cup or plant? (3)
19. Once more (5)
21. Not any (4)
23. Labour Party colour (3)

TRIVIA QUIZ

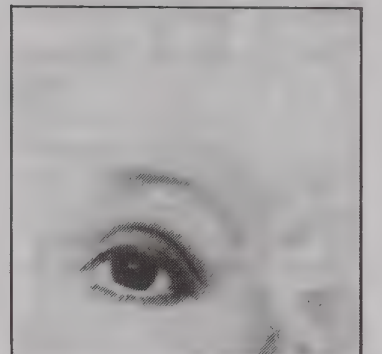
Answers on page 31

1. Who was the fourth wife of Henry VIII?
2. Which country lies between Iran and India?
3. Who was the "Brylcream Boy" who played football for Arsenal and cricket for Middlesex?
4. What is the hardest known mineral?
5. Which soap star is right up Sean Connery's street?
6. How did Downing Street get its name?
7. Who was the only English pope?
8. Which actor directed *Interiors* and *Manhattan*?
9. Which ballroom dance was popularised by the musical *Me and My Girl*?
10. What is the smallest and outermost planet in the universe?

Got any rib-tickling jokes to share? Send them to DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

Whose face is it anyway?

Answers below



Whose face is it anyway? (from left to right): Mel Smith, Barbara Windsor, Richard Branson and David Mellor.

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What is worse than when it's raining cats and dogs? *When it's hailing taxis.*



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HELP!

Phillip Stockdale, a disabled student at Craven College, Skipton, is working on a project about access to the countryside. He would like to share views, experiences and ideas with wheelchair users. Contact Philip at Dacroft Farm, Burn-sall, Skipton BD23 6BN.

To place an item in our Help column, send a £5 cheque made payable to *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

FOR SALE

ELSWICK ENVOY, excellent condition, MOT, 15,000 miles, infra-red nine-way, offers invited. Tel: 081-743 5140.

LARK 8 SCOOTER, used twice, £2,900. Tel: (0329) 663213.

LARK 1991, model 4304 with new batteries, £700. Tel: (0580) 860285 (eve).

LIFT/RECLINING CHAIR, £350. Also, stairlift, offers invited. Tel: 061-485 6493.

AQUA JACK bath seat, £50, buyer collects. Tel: 081-854 8122 (eve).

BEC STIRLING XL electric scooter, £500 ono. Contact 61B Milton Road, Ellesmere Port, Wirral L65 5AT, tel: 051-355 3563/0012.

LARK TRIUMPH 4390, three-wheeler, one-year-old, £950 ono. Also, Uni-scan-glider plus walker, £100 with tray, basket and helping hands, £5. Tel: (0485) 518537 Norfolk.

EVEREST & JENNINGS orthopaedic outdoor electric wheelchair, new condition but needs new batteries, seat elevates electrically — can rotate 180 degrees and tilt, £500. Tel: (0484) 854104.

BALMORAL bath seat and lifter, rechargeable batteries and charger included. Easily fitted to standard bath, was £680, best offer above £280 secures. Tel: (0322) 663080 Kent.

CHEETAH, model SSR, indoor/outdoor, 30-mile range. Was £4,700, used only two weeks before sudden demise, now £3,700. Stored at Gifford House, Worthing. Matron would confirm circumstances, tel: (0903) 213458. Reply Mr Watson, 57 Dundee Street, Carnoustie Angus DD7 7PG, tel/fax: (0241) 853341.

DAF66, 1974, 29,000 miles, good condition, 12 months MOT, Cowal hand controls and "chair-up" rooftop wheelchair lift system, £995 ono. Tel: (0202) 532082.

NEW STIRLING MICRA scooter, colour — blue, never been used, basket, usual extras, was £1,250, will accept £950 ono. Tel: 081-391 9274 view anytime.

BLUE VAUXHALL ASTRA max van, H reg, 1600cc, specially adapted controls, rear entry for wheelchair user, £9,000. Tel: (0903) 745831.

C REG Austin Metro City, 39,000 miles, good condition, ramped back entry for wheelchair, seat for driver and one passenger, £1,500 ono. Tel: (0285) 650980 Cirencester.

EVEREST & JENNINGS Elite Whisper electric wheelchair, complete with charger, kerb climbers and two extended backrests of different heights. Hardly used, 18in wide seat with various cushions, rear shopping bag, £975. Tel: (0959) 576181 Biggin Hill.

TOYOTA HIACE fitted with a lift, space for wheelchair and four passengers, low mileage and excellent condition, very reliable, £2,800. Tel: (0865) 778264.

STERLING SCOOTER, cost £1,800, will sell for £950, immaculate. Tel: (0474) 324936.

EVEREST & JENNINGS Elite Whisper powerchairs. One, little used, purchased 1992. The other, well maintained, 1987. Chargers and extras to both. £1,000 and £400 ono respectively. Tel: (0296) 713583.

HSL electric recliner chair, vgc, cost £800, will accept £400. Tel: 081-659 8571 after 7pm.

CLIO WITH CARCHAIR, grey, extra power steering, automatic, adapted hand-brake, carchair on passenger side, 1,500 miles, as new, £10,495. Tel: 081-399 2766.

CARCHAIR ATTENDANT wheelchair hoist and controls to passenger side for Ford Escort or similar. Vgc, £450 ono. Tel: (0992) 643392.

ROVER 416 GSI, 1600cc, auto, passenger four door saloon, H reg, 24,000 miles, joystick steering, hand or foot, electric hand-brake, gearshift, windows and sunroof, infra-red remote control for lights, wipers etc. £12,000 ono. Tel: 081-840 0450.

VAUXHALL ASTRA CHAIRMAN, auto, E reg, blue, 25,000 miles with lowering suspension for wheelchair access. Excellent condition, £6,500 ono. Tel: 081-684 4902 Surrey.

ELSWICK ENVOY, A reg, blue, automatic, new tyres, power rear ramp with wheelchair, power steering, radio, vgc, £2,000 ono. Tel: (0279) 430732 Harlow.

RENAULT ESPACE with Atlas conversion. High roof plus ramp for carrying wheelchair passenger in comfort, four passenger seats. Tel: (0603) 39306.

WHEELCHAIR, "BARGAIN", Ortho Kinetics Q200 Manual Express. Can be fully dismantled, 14-months-old, as new, cost £8,700 new, will accept £575, no offers. Tel: (0753) 822924 after 6pm.

SEAT CHAIRMAN VISTA, J reg, rear entry vehicle for wheelchair passenger with ramp, electric winch and securing straps. 26,000 miles, excellent condition, £4,500. Tel: (0638) 507400.

FORD COURIER chair carrier, rear access conversion by Constables. 1993, K reg, 8,000 miles, royal blue, petrol engine, excellent condition, as new, £9,850 ono. Genuine reason for sale. Tel: (0984) 40281.

VESSA 2000, two-years-old, good condition, with kerb climbers, £1,200. Also, Vessa 2000 with reclining backrest (electric), elevating leg rest and kerb climbers, good condition, £1,200. Tel: (0634) 686935.

VOLVO 340 fitted with carchair (automatic lift takes chair in and out of car on passenger side). Low mileage, E reg, all in excellent condition, £3,950. Tel: 051-428 3107 daytime.

ESCORT, L reg, 4,000 miles and electric carchair system with power wheel retraction (Constables). Hardly used, cost £17,000 new, now £14,000. Tel: (0938) 553266.

NISSAN PRAIRIE Anniversary model with power steering, electric windows and sun roof. E reg, only 25,000 miles, mint condition, fitted with electric carchair hoist, lifts wheelchair into front passenger position. Complete with two carchair wheelchairs, manual and electric, £7,500 ono. Demonstration can be arranged. Tel: (0763) 245298 Hertfordshire.

DUDLEY EXTRA PLUS outdoor electric wheelchair, climbs kerbs, serviced, good condition with charger and water-proofs, £500 ono. Tel: (0923) 827222.

NIAGARA BACK VIBRATOR with heater and electric motor, £600. Tel: 081-974 6044.

THREE-WHEELED SCOOTER, Lark Triumph, one-year-old, barely used, excellent condition, bought for £1,935, will accept £950 ono. Tel: 081-594 7607.

ORTHO KINETICS LARK portable electric three-wheeler, hardly used, £1,000. Tel: (0788) 810056.

CAR CHAIR, front passenger side complete with lift, self-propelled for independence. Bereavement sale, only £2,000 ono. Tel: (0767) 631539.

DISCOVERY 3, 1993 model, fits in boot, includes charger, basket and rain-cover. Was £1,250, will accept £900. Tel: 081-778 4449.

SMALL SYMMETRIKIT CHAIR, blue, seven-months-old, excellent condition, £500 ono. Contact Mrs Edwardson, tel: (0942) 56734 after 6pm.

ELECTRIC lift/recline chair. Cost over £1,000, unused, offers? Tel: (0705) 524358.

UNWIN WHEELCHAIR QUIKLIIFT, hardly used, £250 with folding walking ramp, 6ft x 20.5in, suitable for caravans. Tel: (0703) 898001 after 6.30pm.

CHILTERN king-size shower/loo unit. Immaculate condition including ramp and door. Was £3,100 new, bargain at £975. Tel: 061-787 8432.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

SANDSEND, WHITBY, user-friendly house to suit disabled wheelchair user in idyllic surroundings. Large lounge, kitchen, dining room, hall, utility room, toilet and basin. Lift to main bedroom, two other bedrooms, accessible bathroom. Two attics, gas central heating, mainly double glazed, £125,000 Tel: (0947) 893249.

WANTED

CHAIRMAN AUTO, about £4,000. Tel: 081-467 0739.

POIRIER PE50, any condition, non-runner considered. Tel: (0296) 720800.

TERRY HARMONY through floor wheelchair lift. Tel: 081-747 3698 evening.

PERSONAL

For Personal ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

YOUNG MALE (23) seeks friendship with female (19-28) with a good sense of humour. My interests include socialising, archery, playing keyboards and listening to music. Photo appreciated. Box No. 721.

HI, I'M DREW BUSTARD (39), disabled, and a wheelchair user. I am looking for a able-bodied/slim girlfriend (31-34) for a relationship, and possibly marriage. I like pubs, discos, holidays abroad, meals out, long walks and Glasgow Rangers. Box No. 722.

GAY GUY, slim build, mild disability but fully mobile, seeks new friends. In music, travel, socialising and other wide interests. Also seeking special relationship, friendly, easy going, reliable and genuine. Box No. 723.

HUMBERSIDE/LINCOLNSHIRE disabled man (39), spinal injury, art business community background, would like to meet smiling lady. Wheelchair user acceptable. Box No. 724.

LAWYER turned writer, divorced mother of two grown-up children, 5'6in, plumpish, lonely, hampered but not ruled by MS, very active, seeks, initially meeting of minds, ultimately, a mate. Box No. 725.

MIKE (31), handsome, disabled (c) wheelchair user, speech problem), good job, own luxurious home, recently separated and lonely, seeks broadminded, caring, loving lady (18-36) for friendship/relationship with view to cohabitation/marriage. I am easy-going, friendly and highly motivated. I am planning a holiday to Australia in early '95 and would love to take a "girlfriend". Please write soon with photo. Box No. 726.

To reply to a Personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2.

HI! widow (58), with MS, would like to meet a male who lives in London or Home Counties with their own transport. My interests include swimming, gardening and the countryside. Box No. 727.

YOUNG FRENCHMAN, graduated public law, has cp, lives independently, likes literature, animals and travel. Would like to correspond with English girl (20-30) leading to marriage. Box No. 728.

BROWN HAIR, brown eyes, gay male (26), seeks male (of course), disabled, able-bodied (18-38) for romantic encounters and friendship. Interests include travelling, socialising, pubs, cinema, eating out and much more. Go on, give me a try. Box No. 729.

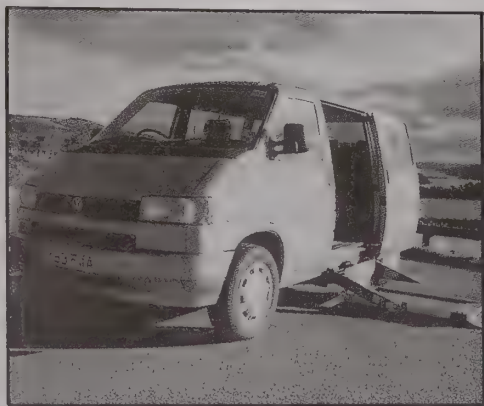
SPANISH FEMALE (36), living south London, slightly disabled, would like to meet somebody for friendship and romance. Box No. 730.

HI! I am a disabled man (26), shy, kind and lonely. I would like to make friends with nice, able-bodied girls. Is there anyone out there who would like to be my friend? Box No. 731.

HELP ME! 22-year-old graduate, with loud taste in music, requires females who can tolerate this unfortunate trait, but need not share it! Must also have a twisted sense of humour, and be able to put up with mood swings varying from intelligent behaviour worthy of John Cleese. Any age London preferred. Male metallers also welcome. Go on, write, you know it makes sense. All letters answered. Box No. 732.

YOUNG, DARK-HAIRED MALE with slight disability (28) seeks female (20-40), able-bodied preferred but not essential. Interests include socialising, swimming, clubbing, chart music and oldies. Why not put pen to paper and give me a go? Box No. 733.

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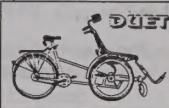
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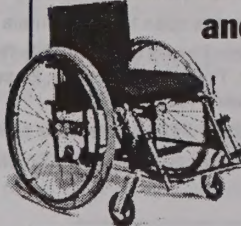
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Please use this form if you are a private individual and want to place a classified advertisement. Write clearly in block capitals. Remember to allow a space for each comma or full stop and a space between words. Use each space in the line even if you have to split words at the end.

_____ (Part of the first line will be in bold capitals)

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Send this coupon with your name and address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to *Disability Now*, to: 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary at no additional cost. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Sorry no refunds. *DN* is a non-profit making newspaper.

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES please contact the Advertisement Director, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362 Fax: 071-237 8019

Deadlines for DN's October issue: booking by 9 September, camera ready artwork/copy by 13 September.

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Tel: 0606 49093 (24hrs).

081-958 9657
Dates for the Social
36 Park Grove **Disabled** contacts
Edgware **A better life** provided.
Middlesex (All areas)
HA8 7SJ

HANDIDATE
Dating Agency
For people with disabilities.
Be assertive and join Handidate.
Able-bodied welcome
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.
Telephone: (0473) 226950.

Equality of opportunity is one of Lewisham's core values. We aim to redress inequalities to ensure fairness throughout our workforce and community.

LEISURE, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE The Lewisham Experience Receptionists

Part-time, up to 12 hours per week, 5 posts Scale 1/2
£8238 - £12,009 per annum inc. Pro Rata to hours worked

Lewisham Central Library will be opening in the town centre in October, providing the very latest in library services together with an exhibition gallery, performance space, bookshop and coffee shop. The entire building has been designed with disabled people in mind, both staff and public.

Recognising that this facility is going to be very popular with the local community, we have created a new post of receptionist which will act as first point of contact for the public. The receptionist will be required to direct people coming into the building, answer basic enquiries and undertake a variety of clerical routines (including keyboarding) as well as operating the minicom and public address system.

As part of the Council's continuing commitment to employment opportunities for disabled people, we are seeking to fill these posts with disabled people and particularly welcome applications from people with severe physical disabilities.

You will be required to work on a shift rota basis including Saturdays and evenings.

For an application form and job details please contact: LEED Personnel, 5th floor, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, Catford. SE6 4RU. Telephone. 081-695-6000 extension 8054. Please quote ref: LS/CR

Closing date: 16th September 1994

Lewisham

THE MIKE HEAFFEY SPORTS CENTRE AND ASPIRE

This unique centre aims to integrate people with a disability and able-bodied people through sport. It includes a multi-activity sports hall, fitness studio, bar with viewing gallery and computer workshop. The BodyKraft Fitness Studio provides first-class cardio-vascular and weight resistance equipment for all abilities.

Applicants must possess good communication skills, flair and creativity and be able to work in an organised manner. A recognised leisure qualification such as a Degree or Diploma in Sport/Recreation; coaching qualifications, administrative and marketing skills would prove advantageous.

Post - 1 Assistant Manager £12,500 - £14,000

This is a demanding but rewarding position, principally responsible for the safe, smooth and effective operation of the Centre's day-to-day running. The post holder will also be involved in the marketing, development and promotion of the Centre's activities.

Post - 2 Development Officer £14,000

This exciting and challenging position will require the post holder to further develop and expand the Centre's integrated activities. The post holder should have the ability to work on their own as well as a member of a team. Excellent communication skills are required and some marketing skills.

For a job description and application form please contact the Centre on 081 954 5759 or write to: The Mike Heaffey Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middx HA7 4LP.

Applications from people with a disability are actively encouraged.
Closing date for applications: 15 September 1994.

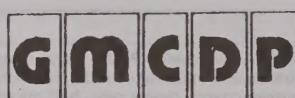
PHLEXICARE DIVISION THE NICHOLLS & CLARKE GROUP OF COMPANIES

We wish to appoint a Sales Executive to join our U.K. team promoting and selling our range of Phlexicare Products in the South West of England.

This is an ideal opportunity for an applicant who has an existing connection and selling experience, dealing with Health Authorities, Nursing Homes, Occupational Therapists and Local Authorities.

Phlexicare Products, the majority of which are manufactured by ourselves, include Sanitaryware, Kitchens, Architectural Ironmongery and Flooring. Applicants should preferably reside in the Taunton, Exeter area. A good salary will be paid commensurate with experience. A company car is provided. This is an interesting and rewarding post and applications should be made to:-

Mr. Trevor Clack, Managing Director, Nicobond Southwest Ltd, Curran Buildings, 14, Curran Road, Cardiff CF1 5DF.
Tel. No. 0222-390146.



The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People is recruiting for a

TEAM LEADER

S02, £17,466 - 30 hrs per week, £14,971 pro rata.

You will need the skills to manage and develop the staff team, individual projects and the organisation as a whole. A detailed understanding of the politics of disability is essential.

Please send for information, stating if braille or large print is required, to - GMCDP, Carisbrooke, Wenlock Way, Gorton, Manchester M12 5LF. The closing date for applications for this post is **23rd September 1994.** Interviews will be held on Friday 7th October.

ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED APPLY

GMCDP particularly welcomes applications from black and minority ethnic disabled people, as they are currently underrepresented in the organisation.

SOUTH SOMERSET ADVOCACY SCHEME

Require an Advocacy Development Worker
Part Time (20 hrs)
Fixed-Term Contract 1 Year.
Salary £5,338.85

A keen awareness of disability and the experience to effectively promote the needs of disabled people is essential.

Good communication skills are required and knowledge of appropriate support services would be an advantage.

Applicant must be a car driver and be prepared to work flexible hours.

Please send a letter of application together with a CV or for further information contact:

Sue Creighton, D.I.A.R.Y. 103a Highfield Road, Yeovil BA21 4RJ.
Tel: 0935-33055.

Affiliated to The Spastics Society - becomes SCOPE in Nov. '94.

Closing date for applications: 23rd September. Interviews to be held early October.

D.I.A.R.Y. is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community.

D.I.A.R.Y. has a No Smoking Policy.

DEVONSHIRES

Busy City Solicitors require hardworking, experienced and conscientious legal clerk. Must have excellent keyboard skills and plenty of common sense. You will join a friendly and professional team and your commitment and skills will be rewarded with a competitive salary. Applicants should note that part of the job requires communication with clients by phone and wheelchair access is difficult.

Please apply in writing with CV f.a.o. Julian Roberts, on our fax number 071-256 7318, or by post to Devonshires, Salisbury House London Wall, London EC2M 5QY.

(We welcome applications from all sections of the community irrespective of race, sex or disability)



SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION WELFARE MANAGER

Required by national organisation of and for spinal cord injured people initially to manage a team of four giving information and advice over the whole range of daily living concerns affecting people with spinal cord injuries.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate knowledge of disability legislation and welfare rights, plus proven managerial and reporting skills. Salary £15,444 to £17,028 inc OLW (NJC Spinal Points 26 - 29)

Details: Ms B Murphy, SIA, Newpoint House, 76 St James's Lane, Muswell Hill, London N10. Tel: 081 444 2121.

SIA is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Applications from disabled people are particularly encouraged. **Closing date 13th September 1994.**

ABLE TYPES LTD Appointment of Deputy to the Director

We are looking for a part-time person 1) to take responsibility for the company when the Director is away 2) to have special overall care for training, word-processing and personnel.

Able Types is a small commercial company of people with a range of physical and mental impairments, which works in mailing, W.P., printing, copying and bureau services. It is a very busy company, efficient and capable of meeting clients' requirements and high standards. It is also concerned in the whole field of disability and employment and works closely with the Social Services and Employment Service and with a consortium of related organisations both local and national.

We expect this post to be filled by someone with commercial acumen, an interest in disability matters, to be computer literate and capable of meeting the training needs of the disabled. We will expect the deputy to show initiative and skills that will enhance the long term objectives of Able Types.

The week is of 20 hours (2.5 days); the salary £15,000 p.a. pro-rata; the building is accessible on the ground floor only. Able Types encourages applications from people with disabilities.

Contact Jonathan Stockland on 0865 244114 or Fax CV to 0865 793294 or write to Jonathan Stockland, Able Types, 127 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0HD.

Car Park Attendant Green Card (2 posts)

1 - (Job share - 19 Hours per week)
1 - full time post 38 Hours per week

£4,212.9 per hour inclusive of low pay supplement + Shift Allowance.

We require an individual to work a two shift rota system with minimum supervision at one of the Council managed car parks and occasionally assist users with advice and information.

You may also be involved with cash reconciliation should equipment fail.

You will be required to carry out cleaning and routine maintenance to the hut and equipment on a regular basis.

Training where necessary will be given.

These post are open to male/female green card holders only.

Application Forms are available from Human Resources, 3rd Floor, Town Hall, Harlow, Essex.
or Telephone (0279) 446017.

Closing date: 16th September 1994

Harlow Council operates a No Smoking Policy

HARLOW

Harlow Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer

CONFERENCES



National Women Workers' Conference

From Me to Us

29th and 30th Oct 94 at Stanford Hall, Loughborough.

Residential conference for women working in the personal and social educational arena with young women. It will focus on work which provides both for young women as individuals and as members of particular communities and cultures.

A chance to gain a nationwide picture of work with young women.

Wheel chair Access.

Workshops specifically on work with young disabled women.

Further details from:

Carola Adams, Youth Clubs U.K. Girls Work Development Officer
0952 433965

**CROSSWORD
ANSWERS**

ACROSS: 1. Dangerously
6. Victor 7. Dumbo
10. Leo 11. Eventual
13. Bravery 16. She
18. Seat 20. Stinging
22. Newt 24. Evasion
25. Head 26. End
DOWN: 1. Devil
2. Nicholas 3. Erode
4. Undone 5. Yob
6. Mouth 9. Oily
12. Vertical 13. Branch
14. Vested 15. Eat
17. Egg 19. Again
21. None 23. Red

**TRIVIA QUIZ
ANSWERS**

1. Anne of Cleves
2. Pakistan 3. Dennis
Compton 4. Diamond
5. Charlie, the trucker
6. After English statesman
Sir George Downing
7. Hadrian IV 8. Woody
Allen 9. The Lambeth
Walk 10. Pluto

**Disability Now
Subscription Rates**

Individual at home address:
one year, £10, two years, £19.
Organisations/authorities:
one year, £15, two years, £29.
Overseas: one year, £20.
Multiple copies: 2 copies £24;
3 copies £36; 4 copies £48;
5 copies £60; 6-9 copies £72;
10-50 copies £100; 51-100
copies £125. One year only.

**UNIVERSITY of EAST LONDON
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, DISABILITIES
AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (DYSLEXIA)**

The University is seeking to develop its support for students with special needs, disabilities or dyslexia. As a result of funding by the HEFCE the following posts are available for one year in the first instance:

ADMINISTRATOR (Full-time) - Ref. 47/N/94
Salary: in the range of £15,261 to £17,118 p.a. inclusive of London Allowance
Your task will be to develop an advocacy and support service and to build on current good practice.

TRANSITION PLANNING DEVELOPMENT WORKER (0.4 post) - Ref. 48/N/94
Salary: In the range of £5301 to £5,930 p.a. inclusive of London Allowance
You will liaise with schools, careers offices, pupils and other agencies to develop transition planning for students with special needs, disabilities and dyslexia entering higher education.

0.6 TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT TUTOR - Ref. 51/A/94
Salary: In the range of £7,700 to £13,564 p.a. inclusive of London Allowance
You will help students with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia) to learn to use various types of technology primarily by direct support. You will up-date the University on developments in technology for students with special needs. You will be proficient in the use of IT and have experience of working with adult learners. You will preferably hold a teaching qualification.


**0.5 SUPPORT TUTOR
SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (DYSLEXIA) Ref. 48/A/94**
Salary: £6450 to £11,289 p.a. inclusive of London Allowance.

A permanent vacancy is also available for a tutor to work with the growing number of students with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia). You should have the knowledge and experience to identify and assess accurately learning/support needs and the ability to offer appropriate support systems as well as contribute to policy development. You should have experience of teaching adult students, a teaching qualification and experience of working with adults with specific learning difficulties.

Candidates must have good communication and interpersonal skills, a commitment to equal opportunities and an awareness of disability issues and be competent in word processing and database skills and be able to travel between sites and other locations.

For an informal discussion about the above posts please contact Viv Parker on 081 590 7722 ext. 2248 or Stella Cottrell ext. 4593. For further details and application forms please contact Personnel Services, University of East London, Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LZ. Tel: 081 590 7722 ext. 4321 (ansafone), Please quote the relevant reference number.

Closing date for completed applications 16th September 1994.
Interviews for the Tutor posts will be held on 28th September 1994
and for the Administrator and the Development Worker on 29th September.

The University is an Equal Opportunities Employer.
**UNIVERSITY of
EAST LONDON** 

SOCIAL SERVICES

Day Service Officer

£10,542 - £14,319
COSHAM

The Horizon Centre is a resource for people with physical disabilities and aims to create opportunities which enable people to develop their lifestyle, in partnership with their carers, through assessment, informed choices, purposeful activities and respite care.

You will need to have a clear understanding of the principle of equal opportunities for people with disabilities and also need to have experience of working in day services. The skills you need include: report writing, an ability to work independently and in a team, be able to take responsibility for the welfare of a group of users and be able to develop an individuals skills through skills training and recreational activities. Experience in the field of disability is essential and a relevant qualification is an advantage.

Applications are particularly welcome from black and ethnic minorities who are currently under-represented in our workforce.

For further information please contact Mairi Marvell or Paul Taylor on 0705 380455.

For an application form please phone the Area Personnel Section, Portsmouth North Area Office on 0705 200150 quoting reference PN/160. Closing date: 23rd September 1994.

IN PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.



Hampshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

HARP (Helping the Homeless with Alcohol and Related Problems) in Birmingham are offering an opportunity to work with people with alcohol and related problems. Vacancies exist in our Women's Project, Young Adult Project, Moseley Drop-in Centre and our Drop-in Accommodation project in the City Centre. We are looking for people who can spend 2-3 days per week between 8.30a.m. - 4.30p.m. and who can give a minimum of 6 months commitment.

No experience necessary - essential training will be provided.

For more information ring Ann or Cath on 021 666 7023.

Closing date for application 12 noon 12 September 1994

We strive towards an Equal Opportunities policy and therefore particularly welcome applicants from groups currently underrepresented including Black, Asian, Irish and people with disabilities.

**Manchester
DISABLED JOB - SEEKERS!**

Manchester City Council has a Disabled People's Targeted Recruitment Scheme.

Disabled applicants are considered first for jobs at all levels. Full details are available in **Jobs Update!** the Council's fortnightly job vacancy bulletin. If you are disabled, get your free copy sent regularly to your address by contacting:

The Recruitment Advertising Unit, Personnel Division, Chief Executive's Department, Cumberland House, Crown Square, Manchester M60 3BB. Tel. (voice or minicom) 061 234 7538.

Jobs Update! is available in braille, large print and on tape, on request.

The Council has a scheme to provide building adaptations, employee aids and equipment, wherever possible, to enable disabled people to carry out the duties of their jobs.

Manchester City Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and we positively welcome applications from women and men, regardless of their racial, ethnic or national origin, disability, age up to 65, sexuality or responsibilities for dependants.

m a k i n g i t h a p p e n

At Ealing Family we are taking positive action to ensure skilled disabled people are represented within our organisation. We invite disabled people only to apply for our post of

TEAM SECRETARY

Based at our West Ealing Office

£13,360 - £15,282 p.a. inc. L.W.

Ealing Family is a rapidly expanding housing association working within a multi-cultural community.

This post provides an excellent opportunity to enter the housing field. You will provide secretarial, administrative and clerical support to the Allocations & Resources Team.

You must have 1 year's experience of office practice, either in a paid or voluntary capacity; the ability to type accurately at 45-50 wpm; be familiar with computer and word-processing systems and the ability to work under pressure.

You will need to deal sensitively with tenants and other callers both in person and on the telephone; be able to organise and prioritise your workload and be able to devise and administer efficient office systems.

Closing date for completed applications: Friday 16th September 1994.

For an application pack, please contact: The Ealing Family Group, St. James' House, 105-113 Broadway, West Ealing, London W13 9BE. Telephone 081-579 7434 after 10.00 a.m.. C.V.s will not be accepted.



The Ealing Family Group is an Equal Opportunities Employer and applications are positively welcomed from all people regardless of their age, gender, ethnic origin, marital status, sexuality or disability.

SOCIAL HOUSING IN ACTION

Ealing Family

University of Wolverhampton Counselling and Guidance Service

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

(Teaching and Learning Strategies for Students with Disabilities)
£17,454 - £20,535 pa*
(Temporary 1 year contract) Ref. A1513

To work with University staff and specialist external agencies in the production of a training package for teaching staff in HE. This training will address in detail the nature and application of the latest computer based technology in the development of teaching/learning strategies for students with a range of disabilities. You will have a computing background and be familiar with the problems and needs of people with disabilities within a learning environment (preferably that of HE). Experience of producing distance learning materials (especially using video format) and the delivery of staff training is desirable. A secondment from a specialist agency would be considered.

LEARNING RESOURCES EDITOR (DISABILITIES)

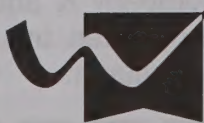
£10,995 - £13,866 pa*
(Temporary 1 year contract) Ref. A1512

To assist the Project Development Officer in the design and compilation of the above mentioned staff training package. You will be a graduate with a computing background and experience in the production of educational/training materials in a variety of formats, including video. You should be familiar with the problems and needs of people with disabilities in a learning environment (preferably HE).

*** Pay Award Pending**

For detailed further particulars and an application form (returnable by 16th September 1994) contact the Personnel Services Department, University of Wolverhampton, Molineux Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1SB. Tel. 0902 321049 (ansafone).

The University is eager to attract larger numbers of applications from groups of people currently under-represented in the staff population - especially from women and people from ethnic minority groups.



**UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON**

Medal bonanza

British athletes won 62 medals at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin in July.

Tanni Grey, from Cardiff, led the way with four gold medals in the 200m, 400m and 800m races and a bronze in the 10,000m.

The London marathon champion has been training hard all summer and was delighted with her achievement.

"I still have great memories of winning four golds at the 1992 Paralympics and I'm thrilled to emulate that performance here," said Grey. "The British team has done very well, which bodes well for the future."

Steve Payton, from Livingstone, finished first in the 100m, 200m and 400m races for people with cerebral palsy.

"I'm delighted everything went so well," said Payton. "I've been training hard and, thankfully, it all paid off."

Kenny Churchill, from Middlesbrough, who also has cerebral palsy, won the men's javelin competition with a world record throw of 44.05m.

Sally Reddin, from Holbeach, won the women's shot, visually-impaired athlete Noel Thatcher, from Harlow, followed up his success in the 10,000m event with another gold medal in the 5,000m, and Londoner Nigel Bourne won the long jump competition for people with learning difficulties.

Germany topped the medals table with Australia second and the United States third. Britain finished fifth. Their tally of 62 medals was 11 more than they won at the 1992 Barcelona Paralympic Games.

Sport is written by
Tim Russell, tel:
071-636 5020



The sky's the limit: Douglas Greer wins the long jump at the BSAD National Junior Championships GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Juniors shine at Blackpool

More than 270 athletes took part in the National Junior Athletics Championships at Blackpool in July.

The annual competition, organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD), is for athletes aged 12 to 20. Best male competitor was Mohammed Abdullah, from North West Region, who won the discus, shot and wheelchair slalom. Douglas Greer, of the British Amputee and Les Autres Sports Association, also had a fine tournament, winning three gold medals in the, javelin, shot and long jump.

Cheryl Stark, from Northern Region, was presented with the best female athlete award after winning both the discus event and 60m race, while Northern Region took home the team champion's trophy.

Britons impressive in defeat

The British men's wheelchair basketball team achieved their best ever result last month when they came second in the World Championships in Edmonton, Canada.

The team, who came last in the same competition four years ago, lost narrowly 67-53

to the all-conquering American team in an exciting final watched by 2,500 fans.

Britain reached the final by beating France in a nail-biting semi-final. It was a match Britain looked like losing when they found themselves five points down with only 23 sec-

onds to go. Three late baskets, however, clinched a 48-47 victory. Calum Gordon top scored for Britain with 86 points.

"This is the best result a British basketball team has achieved," said Phil Craven of the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association.



Melanie Bielby, from the Southern Region, competes in the BSAD shot competition at Blackpool

Laurent's winning return

Frenchman Laurent Giammartini made up for the disappointment of losing last year's final of the men's British Wheelchair Tennis Open by winning the 1994 competition at Nottingham last month.

Giammartini beat Mick Connell, from Australia, 6-1, 6-1 in a one-sided final. But Connell

gained some consolation when he won the doubles tournament with his compatriot David Hall.

Daniella Ditoro, from Australia, beat Germany's Regina Isecki 6-4, 6-2 in the women's final. British hopes disappeared when Jayant Mistry, from Leicester, lost in the first round of the men's event.

Coventry hit rivals for six

Coventry B team won the fourth national tournament for disabled cricketers in July.

The talented Midlands side beat Wrexham by 55 runs in the final at the Henry Fox Centre, Coventry.

Sixteen teams from all over the country competed for the prestigious title.

The Coventry Plate competition, for teams knocked out in the first round, was won by the Iron Wills team from Dawley.

DisabilityNow



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